1	REPORTER'S RECORD				
2	VOLUME 9 OF 35 VOLUMES				
3	TRIAL COURT CAUSE NO. 1384794				
4	COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS NO. AP-77,025				
5					
6	OBEL CRUZ-GARCIA) IN THE DISTRICT COURT				
7	Appellant)				
8))				
9	VS.) HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS				
10))				
11	THE STATE OF TEXAS)				
12	Appellee) 337TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT				
13					
14					
15	*******				
16	VOIR DIRE PROCEEDINGS				
17	********				
18					
19					
20	On the 7th day of June, 2013, the following				
21	proceedings came on to be heard in the above-entitled				
22	and numbered cause before the Honorable Renee Magee,				
23	Judge presiding, held in Houston, Harris County, Texas;				
24	Proceedings reported by computer-aided				
25	transcription/stenograph shorthand.				

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2	
3	
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1	I N D E X VOLUME 9 (VOIR DIRE PROCEEDINGS)					
3	JUNE 7, 2013					
4 5 6	(INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONING OF PROSPECTIVE JURORS) PROSPECTIVE JURORS VOIR DIRE	PAGE/				
7	TODD CHAYKOSKY, NO. 58 3,6 Excused by agreement 17		9 9			
8	MAURA DENMAN, NO. 62 19,20		9			
9	State's strike	58	9			
10	CLARENCE ANDERSON, NO. 70 60,61		9 9			
11	Defense strike	111	9			
12 13	PATRICIA RIVERA LOPEZ, NO. 69 113,115 129,130 137,151		9 9 9			
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17	KEITH BOWERS, NO. 72 215,218 243		9 9			
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5	LOPEZ, PATRICIA RIVERA, NO. 69	113,115 129,130		9 9
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7	Court's ruling		159	9
8	PYPER, NANCEE, NO. 64	163,164 190		9 9
9	Accepted as a Juror	1 00	213	9
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11				
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19 20				
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(Open court, defendant present, no jury
1
 2
                  panel)
3
                 THE COURT: Back on the record in Cause
   No. 1384794. It's Friday, June 7th, and we do have six
4
   jurors to question today. Present at the courtroom
5
   table is Mr. Obel Cruz-Garcia, and his lawyers, Mr. Skip
6
   Cornelius and Mario Madrid. Present for the prosecution
7
   is Natalie Tise and Justin Wood. And we have the
8
   intern, Steve Walsh, for the district attorney's office.
10
                 We're ready to proceed with Juror No. 56,
11
   David Ball.
12
                 MR. CORNELIUS:
                                 58.
                 THE COURT: 58. Juror No. 58, Todd
13
   Chaykosky.
14
15
                 Please bring him in, deputy.
16
                 (Venireperson sworn)
17
             TODD CHAYKOSKY, VENIREPERSON NO. 58,
18
   was called as a prospective juror, and testified as
19
   follows:
20
                     VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
   BY THE COURT:
21
22
            Good morning. Is it Mr. Chaykosky?
        Ο.
23
            That's correct.
24
        O.
            I want to make sure that you are the same Todd
   Chaykosky who was Juror No. 58 in the venire that was
25
```

1 brought over in the State of Texas vs. Obel Cruz-Garcia.

- A. That's correct.
- Q. And you heard my general Voir dire back on June 3rd, Monday, across the hall, in the court across the hallway; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. This is a continuation of that voir dire process. And the only difference is it's individual voir dire. One lawyer from each side will have the opportunity to speak with you today and I'll hold them to half an hour apiece --
- 12 A. Okay.

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- -- so we don't take up your whole day. And I 13 Q. just want to make sure that even though you are under 14 15 oath, there is really no right or wrong answers here. We want you to tell the truth about your general 16 17 feelings. We're going to cover topics that are very 18 similar to the ones I covered and they will be a lot more probing as to your feelings on those topics. And 19 20 so, if you need anything rephrased, you don't understand 21 anything, just ask the lawyer to rephrase it. Okay?
 - A. Okay.
- Q. I do have three questions before we get started generally from the Judge. Do you have any religious, personal, or moral reasons you would be

- unable to sit on a jury where the death penalty is a 1 possible punishment? 2 I do not. 3 Α. Do you know of any reason why you could not be 4 Q. fair and impartial to both sides in a criminal case? 5 6 I don't believe so, no. 7 Okay. And I'm going to let you answer "I don't Q. believe so" at this time, but they're both going to be 8 talking to you about that. We want to make sure that 10 you can. 11 Α. Sure. 12 So, and "I don't believe so" is probably not Q. going to be good enough. 13 14 Okay. Understood. Α. 15 Can you say "yes" or "no" right now? Ο. 16 Α. Yes. 17 You could be fair? Ο. 18 Α. Yes. 19 To both sides? Q. 20 Α. Yes. 21 Okay. They may ask you a little more about Q. 22 that because obviously you've shown there's something 23 you want to talk about.
- 24 A. Sure.
- Q. Have you changed any of your answers from the

```
questionnaire that you filled out on that Friday, June
1
2
   May 31st?
3
        Α.
            No, no.
            We all have a copy of your questionnaire, the
 4
   lawyers for each side and I do. So, if you need one to
5
   refer to, we can certainly make that available to you.
6
7
        A. That would be great.
                 THE COURT: Is everyone okay with -- I have
8
   a copy that does not have any markings on it whatsoever
9
   for Juror No. 58.
10
11
                 MR. WOOD: I have no objections.
12
                 THE COURT: I will tender that to him.
13
        Q.
             (By The Court) And I'm going to turn you over
   to Mr. Wood.
14
15
                 THE COURT: The time is 9:12. You may
16
   begin.
17
                 MR. WOOD: Thank you, Your Honor.
18
                      VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
19
   BY MR. WOOD:
20
        Q.
             Good morning, Mr. Chaykosky. Is it Chaykosky?
             That's correct.
21
        Α.
22
             Okay. How are you doing this morning?
        Ο.
23
        Α.
             I'm doing well.
24
        Q.
             Okay. Welcome back.
25
             Thank you.
        Α.
```

Q. Whether voluntarily or involuntarily.

Again, my name is Justin Wood. And Natalie Tise and I will be the ones trying this case to you if you are one of the lucky 12 chosen.

A. Okay.

- Q. Steve Walsh back here at the back table, he is a law student, an intern that's working with us this summer. So, if you are on the jury you would see him coming in and out. A lot of times people get back in the jury room and wonder who are those people coming in and out of the courtroom.
- So, Mr. Chaykosky, this part of the trial -- and let me go back and remember. You have not serve on a prior jury; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. As you can probably figure out by now, this process, being a death penalty capital murder, is a little more involved than a typical trial, but this --well, no matter what kind of trial it is, this is our only chance to really get to talk to you and visit with you and find out more about you. Obviously, with this little questionnaire, I have more information than I typically would, but there will be some things I want to follow up and ask you about that you answered on that. And then some things that were talked about in general

```
1
   with the Judge.
2
                 So, the moral of the story today is just
           This is as informal as we can possibly get in a
3
   courtroom environment. And it's very conversational.
4
   And if there is something -- if you have a feeling on
5
   one issue or another, please just let me know.
6
7
   ultimate goal is for us -- being Natalie and I, the
8
   defense team, the Judge -- to find the 12 most fair and
   impartial, best jurors for this case. And as we visit
   today, you may figure out that, hey, you know what, this
10
11
   isn't the best case for me to sit as a juror on. Maybe
12
   I might be better on a DWI or a burglary case or
13
   something like that. And that's fine. You're not going
   to offend anybody by your answers or anything like that.
14
15
   So, I just say that up front. Just be open and honest
   with your answers.
16
17
                 A couple of things I wanted to visit with
18
   you about.
               I see you are at U of H. Is that right?
19
        Α.
            That's correct.
            In the business school?
20
        Q.
21
            That's right.
        Α.
22
            Okay. Tell me what your responsibilities there
        Q.
23
   are.
24
            Assessment and accredit agent for the college.
   So, every five years they have an external organization
25
```

- 1 | come in, do their audit of the college, make sure
- 2 resources are being used efficiently, and that type of
- 3 thing.
- 4 Q. Okay. And is that then your background -- how
- 5 long have you been in that role?
- 6 A. Ten years, actually.
- Q. Okay. Now, I see you were born in New York and
- 8 | you have some history there. Is that right?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. When did you move to Houston?
- 11 A. 1992, spring of '92.
- 12 Q. Okay. Have you always been involved in
- 13 | education?
- 14 A. No, no. Marketing research for about three
- 15 | years with a media research company. And then another
- 16 seven years or so with a research company dealing with
- 17 | the home building industry.
- 18 Q. Okay. So, your role in the business school is
- 19 purely administrative, you don't have a professor
- 20 | background or anything like that?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. I also see you got two small ones, nine
- 23 and five.
- 24 A. That's right.
- 25 Q. I'm sure they keep you busy.

```
A. Oh, yes.
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2

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- Q. Now, one thing of interest that I was going to ask you about was, I see that at some point in the past a friend of yours wife was murdered.
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. I'm sorry to hear that.
- 7 A. Yes.
 - Q. How long ago was that?
- 9 A. That was -- I want to say the end of '92, 10 beginning of '93. So, I was here about a year or so.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. My friend was still in upstate New York at that 13 time.
 - Q. Okay. And was that a close friend of yours?
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. And basically -- you don't have to go into full detail, but what were the circumstances of that?
 - A. It turned out that it was -- they lived in an apartment complex. He worked at night. It ended up being a neighbor that they had met when they first moved in. They had become acquaintances with this individual and felt that they had, you know, some sort of, you know, "hi" -- nothing -- not a close relationship, but just a simple, you know, "hi" and they recognized each

other. And it turns out that he came home one evening

```
and the person had broken into the house.
1
2
             Okay. And the wife was at home?
        Q.
             That's correct.
3
        Α.
             Okay. Was that -- so, the neighbor was the one
        Q.
 4
   that was prosecuted for the murder?
5
        Α.
             That's correct.
6
7
             Was the -- did it look like the intent was
        Q.
8
   robbery or --
9
            No, no. It was -- I don't know whether it
   ended -- I mean, I can't speak to his intent
10
11
   necessarily, but I don't know if it was a sexual
12
   assault. I don't believe anything of that nature
13
   occurred. Potentially he might have been trying to get
   something in the apartment and discovered her there.
14
15
   Because I think he knew my friend worked at night.
             Okay. So, did you -- was it a situation that
16
        Q.
   that case actually went to trial?
17
18
        Α.
             That's correct, yes.
19
             Did you have an opportunity to go back upstate
        Q.
20
   or --
21
             Obviously, I went back for the services, but,
        Α.
22
   no, I wasn't present for the trial portion of it.
23
        Q.
             Okay. But you followed that through the
24
   process for your friend?
25
             Uh-huh.
        Α.
```

- Q. Did you feel like they received justice in that case?
 - A. I'd have to tell you probably not.
 - Q. Tell me about that.
 - A. My friend had gone back -- has gone back, I believe, multiple times now. My understanding is that the sentence was life in prison. And I saw nothing, based on what I was told, at least by my friend, during the court proceedings and this individual's background, that would have led me to believe that was justice, what he received.
 - Q. So, did you think he deserved more than that?
- 13 A. Yes, I do.

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- Q. Okay. Well, I know it's rare and unfortunate that you have to have something hit so close to home, but it probably gives you an unique perspective into the system, too, having gone through it with your friend.
 - A. Sure.
- Q. Is there anything about that particular
 experience that you think would cause you to be -- I
 hate to say unfair, but not as fair or impartial in this
 case, knowing that we're talking about a murder or an
 alleged murder?
 - A. No.
- 25 Q. Okay.

A. No, not at all.

- Q. You would be able to look at this case and judge this case on the facts that you are presented in this courtroom and not bring in that experience and let that weigh in on your decision?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. So, I saw you kind of hesitate. The Judge was right when she said one of us or both of us would probably follow up on that. When you hesitated when the Judge asked if you think you could be fair to both sides, I'm going to ask you: What was that hesitation?
- A. I think the hesitation -- or, actually, I know the hesitation is that my wife used to work for the medical examiner's office, forensic testing, for about three years after she came here to Houston. So, from '93 to the end of '96, beginning of 1997.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. And during her tenure there, she was there at the time with Elizabeth Johnson and there was quite a stir-up at that point about a variety of things. And I think my experience at least, in conversations with them and going to dinners and different things, is that there are people who do testing correctly and there are people who do testing that may not necessarily be correct. And

I think there is evidence of that here in the city itself. So, I have some hesitation, I suppose. Well, certainly I wanted to bring that to light here this morning, but I think I would tend to question a lot of stuff maybe a little more than maybe someone else who didn't have a little bit of insight that I do have. I'm certainly not a scientist or research scientist or did any of that sort of testing and all, but I think I would be much more critical of that type of information. whether that's good or bad, I certainly wanted to let that be known.

- Q. Well, I appreciate you being forthcoming with that, Mr. Chaykosky. I want to make a couple of points before we go into that. You know, as a juror, you are the ultimate judge of the facts that are presented to you, the evidence that is presented to you, the witnesses that come before you. I mean, that is going to be your primary job.
- A. Yes.

Q. You and your fellow jurors are going to get to evaluate every witness that takes the stand and figure out whether or not you believe them, whether you find them credible. And that goes for the evidence as well. So, you know, in a criminal case, as the Judge told you before -- and it's now on that screen beside you --

```
1
   Natalie and I ultimately have the responsibility of
   proving this case to you beyond a reasonable doubt. And
2
   there are certain things that the Judge read from the
3
   indictment, that are now listed beside you, that are the
4
   elements of the capital murder in this case that we have
5
   to prove to you. All of those, each one of those items
6
7
   I have to prove to you beyond a reasonable doubt.
                 Now, you know, every witness or every piece
8
   of evidence or testimony that comes before you that
9
   relates to those, you are going -- you are going to be
10
11
   judging that. So, we can't go into the specific facts
12
   of the case or I can't tell you what witnesses you might
13
   hear from, but you see that this offenses is alleged to
   have occurred back in '92. That's around the timeframe
14
15
   that we're talking about regarding your concerns. We're
   talking about a murder that is alleged to have been
16
17
   committed. So, you can imagine that you -- in a
18
   criminal case, you could potentially hear from a medical
   examiner --
19
20
        Α.
            Right.
21
            -- possibly. And in a -- when we're talking
        Q.
22
   about a capital murder or a murder case, what other
23
   types of evidence do you think you might see that might
24
   come -- that might come out in a trial? What might you
25
   expect?
```

- A. I would expect photographs, obviously.
- Q. Right.

- A. Some sort of information with respect to the instrument, the weapon that was used, photos of the scene itself.
- Q. What about scientific evidence or forensic
 evidence?
- A. Oh, certainly. You know, blood-related stuff.

 9 I would expect to see quite a bit of that.
 - Q. DNA, possibly?
- 11 A. Right.
- Q. Yeah. And so, it kind of goes to what you were talking about. And you were saying that you and your wife had a close connection with Elizabeth Johnson back during that time. And you are intimately familiar with some of those issues that she raised, right?
- 17 A. Right.
- Q. So, my question to you is that, given that
 background, given your knowledge, do you think that you
 would be able to judge the evidence fairly when it was
 presented to you?
- A. Yes, I do. I certainly would want to know
 where the evidence was processed, but, yes, I do feel
 that I could.
- Q. Well, and naturally you would probably learn

```
1
   that through testimony.
2
        Α.
            Uh-huh.
            But do you think that you would scrutinize that
3
        Ο.
   evidence more so given your background and your
4
   information that you have personal knowledge of?
5
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Judge, can we approach the
6
   bench and have a sidebar?
7
                 (At the Bench, off the record)
8
9
                 (Open court, defendant present, no jury)
10
                 THE COURT: Okay. Is it the agreement by
11
   both sides that Mr. Todd Chaykosky, Juror No. 58, is to
12
   be excused?
                State?
13
                 MR. WOOD: It is, Your Honor.
14
                 MR. CORNELIUS: It is our agreement, Judge.
15
                 THE COURT: And Mr. Obel Cruz-Garcia, is
16
   your agreement as well?
17
                 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
18
                 THE COURT: Very good. Thank you.
19
                 And what that means, Mr. Chaykosky, is that
20
   with the question they covered already, they've
21
   determined that they're in agreement that you are to be
22
   excused as a juror. Nothing personal, you understand
23
   that.
24
                 VENIREPERSON: Certainly.
                 THE COURT: We completely appreciate you
25
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being so honest and bringing forth all of the stuff in
1
2
   your background that both sides wanted to hear. So, you
   have done your duty. You can leave today and not come
3
   back on this case.
4
                 And all of those instructions that I put
5
   you under, you are now released from those. You can
6
7
   speak with whomever you want about your jury service.
   And I hope that it's favorable. We couldn't have trials
8
   like this without interested and involved citizens like
   yourself coming down here and doing their duty. So,
10
11
   thank you very much.
12
                 VENIREPERSON: You're very welcome.
13
                 THE COURT: Do you need any type of excuse
14
   for work or a bus pass?
15
                 VENIREPERSON:
                                No.
16
                 THE COURT: Okay. You're free to go.
17
   Thank you.
18
                 (Venireperson excused)
19
                 THE COURT: Anybody need a break or
20
   anything? Let me let them finish.
21
                 (Pause)
22
                 THE COURT: All right. Bring in the next
23
   juror, Maura Denman.
24
                 (Venireperson sworn)
25
              MAURA DENMAN, VENIREPERSON NO. 62,
```

was called as a prospective juror, and testified as
follows:

VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION

BY THE COURT:

3

4

5

- Q. Good morning, Ms. Denman. How are you doing?
- 6 A. I'm okay. A little tired.
 - Q. Are you? We're all glad that it's Friday.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Okay. We want to make sure you are the same
 10 Maura Denman, Juror No. 62, from the venire in the State
 11 of Texas vs. Obel Cruz-Garcia.
- 12 A. That's correct.
- Q. And you listened to my voir dire in the ceremonial courtroom across the way on Monday of this week?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 This is the continuation of that process, the voir dire process. And we are in individual voir dire 18 19 now. One lawyer from each side will have the 20 opportunity to speak with you. I'm going to hold them 21 to half an hour on each person. So, we shouldn't be 22 here for more than another hour on your case. They 23 might finish earlier, but you can expect that they 24 probably won't.
- 25 And even though you are sworn, and we do

```
expect you to tell the truth, but there are no right or
1
2
   wrong answers here because we are asking about your
   feelings on the law and a little bit about your
3
   background, how things might affect you. So, if there
4
   is anything you don't understand, please ask the lawyers
5
   to rephrase it. It's fairly informal.
6
7
                 I do have three questions I need to ask of
   you before they begin. The first one is, do you have
8
   any moral, personal, or religious reasons why you would
   be unable to sit on a jury where the death penalty is a
10
11
   possible punishment?
12
            No, I don't.
        Α.
13
        Q.
             Do you know of any reason why you could not be
   fair and impartial to both sides in a criminal case?
14
15
        Α.
             No.
16
        Q.
             And have any of your answers on the
17
   questionnaire that you filled out on Friday, May 31st,
18
   have any of those changed?
            Not that I'm aware of.
19
        Α.
20
        Q.
            Very good. I appreciate that. I'm going to
21
   turn you over to Ms. Tise.
22
                 THE COURT: It is 9:31, Ms. Tise.
23
                 MS. TISE:
                            Thank you, Judge.
24
                      VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
25
   BY MS. TISE:
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- Q. And it's Dr. Denman, correct?
- 2 A. Yes.

- Q. Thank you so much for coming back today. We appreciate it. I know you don't really feel like you had a choice in the matter, but we really do appreciate you being here and participating in this process.
 - A. Thank you.
- Q. So, what did you think when you got this questionnaire on Friday of last week and saw that this was a death penalty case?
- A. I was a little bit shocked. I really didn't know what to expect when I went to jury duty. The only other time I've been called for jury duty, I was dismissed within the first 20 minutes, as was everyone.

 They didn't panel anyone that day. So, I had no experience. So, I wasn't really expecting it, you know.
 - Q. Well, I can tell you this is not the norm most of the time. We generally only do these questionnaires on capital cases. So, don't let that deter you from your future jury service, that you are going to have to come in and tell your life story.
 - A. No. That's okay.
- Q. But I'm sure you can understand how come on capital cases it would be important for us to have a lot of information.

A. Yes.

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- Q. Because it's an important situation and it's not something people are asked to do every day. So, your gut reaction was just shocked?
- A. Just, I wasn't expecting it. You know, but if that's what you are looking for and that's what you need, that's what you need, so...
 - Q. Right. After you've had time to kind of think about it over the weekend before you came back for the Judge's voir dire, what were your feelings then?
- A. A little bit nervous, but at the same time, I

 consider the whole idea of the jury of your peers and

 what that means. And I really hadn't had to think about

 that that much before. And it's a serious thing.
 - O. Absolutely.
- A. And so, I guess what I'm saying, I wouldn't be here if I wasn't willing and able to do this and to approach it in a serious kind of manner. And so, I thought about it over the weekend. And everybody who knows that you are going to jury duty says: Oh, well, tell them this or tell them that and...
 - O. To get out --
- A. That's not who I am, so...
- Q. We appreciate that. Because a lot of times we find that people come in and they say what they have to

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say to get off the jury. And I have actually witnessed
my brother and my father having a long discussion about
how to get off a jury right at the Thanksgiving dinner
table. And I appreciate people who are willing to come
in and give honest answers. And, you know, if they wind
up on the jury, then that's fine. They respect the
process.
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- A. Yes. And that is where I am.
- Q. Right. I see that. And I really do appreciate that. And that is all this is really about is your honest answers. And there is no right or wrong answer, just how you really feel.
- So, I want to ask you if you had really thought about your feelings on the death penalty before you were called down for jury duty on this case?
- A. I have not seriously given lots of thought to it since probably college. I had a class in college called can your conscience be your guide. It was small liberal arts college and we talked about all kinds of things. I'm sure we discussed at length in that course, but since then I haven't really. So, over the weekend, I did consider it and I have never really had any issues with the death penalty --
 - Q. Okay.

A. -- at all. I think it just needs -- you know,

it's a serious thing and it's not to be used lightly.

Q. Absolutely.

So, where would you put your feeling on the death penalty if you had to scale of one to ten and one was just against it, period, extremely, and ten is for it, period, extremely, and if you couldn't choose five because we want you to --

A. Well, you can tell by my answers on the questionnaire where I wrote "depends" out in the margins a lot. I really think that, again, it isn't used lightly. So, it really depends on whether it's merited in the case. So, I'm not against it, out of hand, and I'm not a hundred percent for it because it's not to be used in every case. So, I think it depends on the situation.

- Q. Okay.
- A. And so, I guess you could say I'm five, but I don't know if that really describes me.
 - Q. Okay. I'm going to let you keep five.
- A. I'm not trying to wiggle. I really honestly
 think that you can't give a black-and-white answer to a
 lot of the questions.
 - Q. And you can't. And I think you are absolutely right about that. And I'm going -- I usually say don't choose five because I want to see one side or the other

- 1 where people come down, but I'm going to let you stick
- 2 | with five because I hear what you're saying and I
- 3 respect it.
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 Q. The Judge talked about the kinds of crimes that
- 6 | the death penalty might be available for. Were you able
- 7 to absorb all of that?
- 8 A. I think so.
- 9 Q. And how do you feel about that? Do you think
- 10 those are the kinds of crimes we ought to have the death
- 11 penalty for?
- 12 A. I believe so, yes.
- Q. Okay. It's always got to be a murder.
- 14 A. Yeah, but more than --
- 15 Q. But a murder plus. It's more than your
- 16 ordinary murder. Ordinary murder is going to be a range
- 17 of punishment of five to life. A capital murder has an
- 18 aggravating circumstance that bumps it up.
- 19 A. Uh-huh.
- 20 Q. And it's not just any aggravating circumstance.
- 21 | It's the ones that the Legislature has listed.
- 22 A. Uh-huh.
- 23 Q. And some of them are things like committing the
- 24 | murder while doing another serious felony, like a
- 25 robbery, a typical convenience store robbery where they

- 1 shoot the clerk. That's an aggravated robbery plus a
 2 death and that's capital murder.
 3 A. Right.
 4 O. If you kill a child under 10 years old. If
 - Q. If you kill a child under 10 years old. If you -- and that's a new one. That one wasn't part of the law a while back. That one has been fairly new. If you kill a police officer in the line of duty. Do those sound like the kinds of things we should have the death penalty for?
- 10 A. I think it should be considered in the case, 11 yeah.
- Q. Okay. Would you add anything or take anything away or -- that you can think of?
 - A. To the list of things that were included?
- 15 O. Uh-huh.

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- 16 A. No, not that I can think of without looking at 17 it and -- yeah.
- Q. How do the other members of your family feel about the death penalty?
- A. I believe that my husband feels similar to me, but it's not something we talk about.
- 22 0. Sure.
- A. And I'm really not aware of how, like, my sister or my mom or anyone extended feels.
- Q. So, nobody in your immediate family has really

1 strong feelings against the death penalty that you're 2 aware of?

- A. Not that I'm aware of, no.
- Q. Okay. And, you know, we talk about it a lot just kind of in a vacuum, you know, this is, you know, a death penalty case, and in theory what do you think about it, and in theory, you know, do you support it; but this is the real deal here, where, you know, it's game time.
- 10 | A. Yeah.

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- Q. And so, I want you to take a look over here at Obel Cruz-Garcia, the defendant in this case. He's sitting right there in the gold tie with the headset on.
 - A. Yeah.
 - Q. At the end of this trial, if you answer the special issues in such a way that leads to the death penalty, those answers are going to lead to the execution of that living, breathing human being that is sitting right here in this room with us.
 - A. I understand that.
- Q. And are you comfortable with that? I guess comfortable is not the word. It shouldn't be comfortable.
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. But can you do that?

- A. If the evidence of the case merits it, warrants it, and that is what we're presented with, then, yes.
- Q. Okay. I want to talk to you about some of the things on your questionnaire.
 - A. Okay.

8

- Q. You talked about what you felt like the goals of punishment were.
 - A. Yeah.
- 9 Q. And you want to talk to me a little bit about 10 your feelings on that?
- A. Yeah. When I looked at that question, I could kind of see, you know, ideally rehabilitation is a wonderful goal that we would all like to see happen, but I don't believe that it's possible in all cases.
 - O. Okay.
- 16 And so, I guess what I was trying to get across in my answer to that is that when you look at individual 17 18 cases and individual people, it needs to be taken into 19 consideration what is possible or probable in their 20 case. And if rehabilitation is possible, then I think then that's what you should strive for. But if it's not 21 22 possible, then, no. And so, I can't remember exactly 23 how the question -- what the possible answers were, but 24 I know rehabilitation was one. And one was about 25 deterrence. And I personally am not 100 percent

- 1 convinced that our system is set up in such a way that
 2 we really are effectively deterring criminals with the
- 3 punishments that are handed out. And so, I guess, what
- 4 I was trying to say is that that doesn't seem realistic
- 5 in all cases either. And so, depending on the case,
- 6 rehabilitation may not appropriate, deterrence isn't
- 7 | necessarily -- and deterrence is thinking about other
- 8 people. It's not thinking about the person who
- 9 committed the crime.
- 10 Q. Right.
- 11 A. And so, that's why I answered the way that I
- 12 | did.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. That you want to try to prevent the person who
- 15 actually committed the crime rather than focusing on
- 16 deterring other people.
- 17 Q. Do you ever think that there are some types of
- 18 crimes that punishment is also a goal, just the
- 19 punishment itself, that there are things that you can do
- 20 and there should be a consequence --
- 21 A. There should always be a consequence.
- 22 Q. -- that commensurate with what you have done,
- 23 and sometimes punishment, just for its own sake, is a
- 24 | goal? How do you feel about that?
- 25 A. I think there needs to be a consequence for

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actions that are taken that require them, but I think in a death penalty case, for instance, I wouldn't use the death penalty for the sake of using the death penalty.
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- Q. You are not an eye-for-an-eye person, in other words; is that what you're saying?
- A. No. I'm not 100 percent an eye for an eye, correct.
 - Q. Okay. Fair enough.

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9 And the law doesn't even really allow for that. Just, you know, it all depends on the 10 11 circumstances. And I like the fact that on your 12 questionnaire you made that very clear, that you answered the questions -- a lot of the questions are 13 black-and-white questions, but black-and-white answers 14 15 are not appropriate to these questions. There are questions that call for black-and-white answers and 16 black and white is not going to work. 17

- A. I think they can't really be black and white until they're applied to a specific case. A lot of those questions, anyway.
- Q. That's what the law -- that's exactly what the law says.
- 23 A. Okay. I don't like --
- Q. Let's talk about some of the -- you talked about how a sentence of life in prison is enough

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1
   punishment for a person convicted of capital murder, and
   you agreed with that, but then you said it depends.
2
   you believe there are some cases where a sentence of
3
   life in prison is not enough punishment?
4
 5
        Α.
            Yes.
            Okay. I want to talk to you some about what to
6
7
   expect in this process and some of this, you know, is
8
   stuff that the Judge covered, but I want to talk to you
   in a little more detail. First of all, do you
10
   understand how the trial process works and how there are
11
   two phases, the guilt phase and the punishment phase?
12
        Α.
            Yes.
            And you are going to hear different evidence.
13
        Q.
   There is a different goal in each one of those phases.
14
15
   So, the evidence is going to be different. Do you see
   how that works?
16
17
            I hadn't really thought about that before, but,
   yes, I can see how that works.
18
            The goal in the first phase, guilt, is to
19
        Q.
20
   determine whether the defendant committed this crime.
                                                            Α
   lot of times jurors are like: Why can't we hear all
21
22
   about him in the guilt phase of the trial, all his
   criminal history, all the good things about him; you
23
24
   know, why can't we hear all of that? Well, the reason
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you can't hear all of that is because it's not relevant.

It's focused on did he do this crime. Okay?

There are exceptions where prior offenses can come in in guilt, but they're pretty rare. Okay?

Most of the time that's stuff you are going to hear in punishment because it's relevant to the issue of what should happen to him if you decide that he is guilty of this crime. Does that seems fair?

A. Yeah, makes sense.

So, in the guilt phase of the trial, as you Q. know in a capital murder, you know a little bit about what we're looking at because you heard the Judge talk about the elements. And I'll put them up on the screen. And you can look at them there on your right if it's easier. Over here on this other side there is a little screen, or on the big board. Whatever is easier for you.

But those are the elements that I have to show. And that's all I have to show. That's all the law requires me to show. And it's enough. It's plenty. It covers all of the main issues in the case, but the reason I bring it up is because every criminal case -- and I have tried a bunch of them -- you know, there is always things that we don't know. I don't get to control the evidence. I don't get to write down my check list of all the things that I would like to have.

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I don't get to choose the witnesses. I have the case as
1
2
   it's been brought to me and as I present it to you.
   Okay?
3
                 Actually, the person who has the most
 4
   control over what evidence is presented in a case is the
5
   defendant in that case. He chooses what he leaves
6
   behind. If he doesn't want to leave prints -- I'll give
7
8
   you some examples.
            But you just said the defendant. And that's
        Α.
   presuming guilt.
10
11
        Ο.
            I'm sorry?
12
        A. You just presumed guilt.
                 THE COURT: We're all assuming. These are
13
   hypotheticals. We're not talking about this defendant.
14
15
                 VENIREPERSON:
                                Okay.
16
             (By Ms. Tise) The defendant in the case that's
        Ο.
17
   charged, he's the person who controls the evidence
   that's left behind.
18
            Well, actually, the perpetrator who actually
19
20
   committed it, whether it's the defendant or not. But I
21
   know what you're saying.
22
            I'm not talking about this one.
23
        Α.
            No.
                 I know.
24
        Ο.
            I'm talking about the defendant in whatever
```

case in my hypothetical.

- MR. CORNELIUS: I still have an objection 1 with the question. No offense, but that's assuming 2 whoever it is is guilty. It's the perpetrator, is what 3 you are trying to say, but it doesn't necessarily mean 4 this defendant. I understand what you're saying. 6 7 (By Ms. Tise) I'm changing it to perpetrator. Q. Don't think I'm trying to --8 9 Α. No. I know. Not in this case. Talking hypothetically. 10 11 Ο. Okay. I'm trying to just give you a hypothetical and I will use the word perpetrator. 12 Α. 13 Okay. 14 So, the perpetrator in the case, the person who 15 committed the crime -- okay -- is the person who controls what's left behind. 16 17 Α. Yes. 18 If he doesn't want to leave fingerprints, he Ο. can wear gloves? 19 20 Α. Gloves. 21 If he doesn't want to leave semen, he can wear Ο. 22 a condom. If he wants to have no witnesses, he can 23 commit the crime where no one sees or at least try to. 24
 - Α. Yeah.
- 25 Or he can choose to commit the crime in front 0.

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of people he trusts, you know, that he thinks will not --
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A. Have his back.

- Q. Uh-huh. Or, he can choose to commit the crime against people he thinks are weak and who won't stand up against him, won't report the crime. So, there are a lot of things that the defendant can choose and those are -- that determines a lot of the evidence. Okay?
 - A. Uh-huh.
- Q. Also, the witnesses in the case, I don't get to choose who they are. They are just who they are. Okay? And none of them are going to be perfect. There aren't going to be any perfect police officers or perfect civilians who come to you as witnesses in the case. But the question that will be before the jury is: Can you listen to the evidence that you've heard, determine whether you believe it, determine whether your belief is beyond a reasonable doubt, and if so, can you convict the defendant based on that? Does that seems reasonable and fair to you?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. You recognize that if a criminal case was a puzzle, those elements are the pieces that you have to have. There is a lot of other pieces of the puzzle that are there, but if you don't have them, it's

- okay, you can set those aside. So, the law requires you to hold me to having those essential pieces of the puzzle.

 A. May I ask a question?
 - Q. Uh-huh.
- A. That last part bothered me maybe because I
 didn't really understand it and nobody explained it. By
 unknown manner and means.
 - Q. Yes.

- A. So, you're saying that you have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he committed the act of murder and you don't necessarily know how he committed it?
- Q. That's true. The law doesn't require me to show you how he committed it.
- 15 A. Okay.
- Q. That's one of the options. One option is sharp instrument and the other is by an unknown manner and means. How do you feel about that?
- 19 A. So, we're being asked to answer both of those 20 then or --
- THE COURT: It would be either/or. The
 jury would have the -- six could believe that it was by
 a sharp instrument and six could believe by an unknown
 manner and means.
- 25 A. Okay. I see what you're saying.

- 1 O. (By Ms. Tise) Are you comfortable with that?
- A. I guess. I had never seen that before, so I didn't exactly know what that meant.
 - Q. Okay. Do you think that's unfair?
- A. If the evidence shows beyond a reasonable doubt that he committed an act and you don't exactly know how he committed the act, then I think that's okay.
 - Q. Okay.
- 9 A. Yeah.

- 10 Q. Do you think or --
- 11 A. No. I mean, if that's what the evidence shows,
 12 that murder was committed and that he was the one that
 13 committed the murder, whether that's through eyewitness
 14 testimony or through confession or whatever, then --
- 15 Q. Right.
- 16 A. -- then that's okay. Yeah.
- 17 Q. Right. Okay.
- 18 A. Okay.
- 19 Q. One of the reasons why we have that, you see 20 that this is a 1992 case.
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
- 22 Q. I have to talk to you in hypotheticals.
- 23 A. Sure.
- Q. But can you think of some things about the fact that the date is 1992 that may lead you to why that's an

- 1 | unknown manner and means?
- 2 A. Yeah.
- Q. What kind of things come to mind? What
- 4 kinds --
- 5 A. Things happen to evidence. I mean, evidence
- 6 | gets lost, evidence gets destroyed by elements, things
- 7 | like that.

- O. Sometimes --
- 9 A. You've got a high standard you have to go up
- 10 against if you are going to show it.
- 11 Q. That's right. That's right. Lots of times in
- 12 | cold cases evidence gets lost, as you said. Witnesses
- 13 die. Sometimes cases are cold because bodies aren't
- 14 | found for a period of time.
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. And when you have a few bones that have been
- 17 | interfered with by the elements or animals, or -- you
- 18 know, those kinds of things happen and you cannot tell
- 19 from two or three bones what a cause of death is
- 20 usually.
- 21 A. Yeah.
- Q. And so, those are kind of some of the things.
- 23 | The law allows us to plead our case as an unknown manner
- 24 and means in situations like that because, otherwise,
- 25 | we'd just have to say: Well, we can't prove how he

- 1 died, so we have to just not pursue the case. How do 2 you feel about that?
 - A. I think you have to do what you have to do with what you are presented, but I think that makes the standard really high because you have to show, without that additional evidence -- you know, I don't think it's impossible by any means.
 - Q. Okay. But would you raise our standard because the case is old or because --
 - A. No. I'm not saying that. I'm saying the situation that you are put in is a difficult situation because you have to then present evidence to a jury to make a decision with incomplete evidence.
 - Q. Okay.

- A. And so, the evidence that you have has to show your case. That's all I'm saying. I'm not saying it's impossible, I'm not saying that I would need a higher standard or a higher bar. I'm just saying you're put in a difficult position.
- Q. Okay. And I just want to know how you as a juror, you know, respond to that, how you feel about that, how you react to that. And I want to know that you can still follow the law and hold me just to the elements.
- A. Yes, I can definitely hold you to that.

- You know, things like lost evidence or missing 1 Ο. 2 witnesses, those are things that every human being -you might go back in the jury room and go: Well, I wish 3 I could have heard what that person said or I wish I 4 could have seen that. But what you will be charged to do is look at those elements and decide whether or not 6 what we did present --
- Uh-huh. 8 Α.

9

- -- you believe beyond a reasonable doubt. Q.
- 10 Α. Beyond a reasonable doubt.
- 11 And whether I met them. Ο.
- 12 Α. Yeah.
- 13 Q. And so, what we ask you to do is set aside the I-wonder things. You know, I wish I knew, I wonder, and 14 15 just look to the elements and see if they are satisfied.
- 16 Uh-huh. Α.
- 17 Do you think you can do that? Ο.
- 18 I think I can. Α.
- Okay. Sometimes we have accomplices or parties 19 Q. 20 testifying in cases and sometimes we don't. You might 21 hear about parties in a case and wonder why they didn't 22 testify. Can you think of reasons why they might not?
 - Α. Yes.

- 24 Ο. They have a Fifth Amendment right not to.
- 25 I was going to say, yeah, they've got the right Α.

1 | not to testify, but...

Q. And --

- A. If they are not living, of course, they're not going to be here to testify, but...
- Q. Maybe they want a deal and we're not willing to offer it. Those kinds of things. Sometimes you have people testify and you have to evaluate whether you think they are an accomplice or a party. And you understood the Judge's examples on what a party is?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And there is a little twist on it called co-conspirator law that's also out there where people can conspire to commit a crime together and then they are responsible for what their co-conspirators do beyond the conspiracy. That law also has another little exception to it where if you abandon the conspiracy and say: I don't want to be a part of this anymore, then you are not responsible for what happens after that.
 - A. Okay.
- Q. There is a lot of details like that that the Judge will instruct you on if you are a juror in this case, but what I want to direct your attention to is that you might have to decide whether somebody testifies for you is a party or not --
- 25 A. Okay.

- 1 Q. -- based on a legal standard.
- THE COURT: You've got five minutes.
- MS. TISE: Thank you, Judge.
- 4 Q. (By Ms. Tise) Do you think you can do that?
- 5 A. I think so.
- Q. If you find that they are a party, I will tell
- 7 | you now if they're testifying in exchange for a deal,
- 8 | you will know that.
- 9 A. I was going to ask, will we know that.
- 10 O. You will know that.
- 11 A. Okay.
- Q. That will be presented to you. So, if you
- 13 don't hear about a deal, then there is no deal. Okay?
- 14 A. Okay.
- 15 Q. If you decide that they're a party, then you
- 16 | have to have corroboration of their testimony.
- 17 A. Okay.
- Q. Okay. And corroboration doesn't mean you have
- 19 to have a second person who says what they said.
- 20 A. Physical evidence or --
- 21 Q. Something totally different. It could be
- 22 physical evidence at the scene. You know, for instance,
- 23 | it could be you have a party who is there who says this
- 24 | is what happened and then you have a gun that's got the
- 25 defendant's fingerprint on it. That would be

- corroboration. It doesn't have to be a mountain of
 evidence. It doesn't have to be evidence that stands
 alone. It just has to be something that also shows that
 the defendant is your guy, the perpetrator in the case.
 - A. Okay.
 - Q. Okay? Are you comfortable with that?
- 7 A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. Do you have any strong feelings -- I know you've got a biology background.
- 10 A. Uh-huh.
- 11 Q. Tell me a little bit about that.
- A. Well, I studied general biology in college and then I went off to graduate school and I studied parental care primarily. I studied ecology, evolution, and animal behavior. But I worked in the rain forest studying poisonous frogs.
- Q. So, I love those poisonous frogs when I go to the -- all those pretty colors.
- A. I basically studied the way the mothers take care of the tadpoles. It's a very different kind of system than frogs that you are familiar with usually.
 - Q. That's really interesting.
- So, is there anything about your background where you feel like you would go into a case with scientific evidence, and, you know, be more critical,

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1 less critical, or more -- more hesitant to follow it or
2 less hesitant?
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- A. I don't think so. I just think that knowing the scientific method helps me interpret what's presented to me. I don't know that I would change any standards or anything like that. I think I would be able to understand things that maybe other people on the jury might need more explanation. Yeah.
- 9 Q. Okay. Did you understand how -- when the Judge 10 went through the special issues how those all worked?
- 11 A. Yes.

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- Q. Basically, the different things that have to be shown.
- MS. TISE: Go ahead and put the first one up there.
 - Q. (By Ms. Tise) There are some key words in there. First of all, probability. As a scientist, I don't really have to explain to you what that is. It's not a certainty and it's not a possibility.
 - A. Yeah.
- 21 Q. In between.
- 22 A. Uh-huh.
- Q. Criminal acts of violence. Don't have to be murders, don't have to be, you know, even crimes against people. Could be slashing somebody's tires out of anger

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or threatening someone. Do you think that's a fair
1
   standard or do you think that's --
2
            Well, it says also they would constitute a
3
        A.
   continuing threat to society. And in the case of
4
   slashing tires, I don't know.
5
             So, you don't think a property crime could show
6
7
   a person --
            Maybe it was the specific property crime you
8
        Α.
   listed, slashing a tire; but, no, I understand what's
   being asked.
10
11
        Ο.
            And society can include other people in prison,
12
   clinicians, other inmates, guards.
13
        Α.
           Okay.
          Do you accept that?
14
        Q.
15
            Yes.
        Α.
16
             This particular case is a capital that happened
        Q.
   in '92.
             So, the law in '92 is what we apply.
17
18
        Α.
             Okay.
             And we don't have life without parole in '92.
19
        Q.
20
   That came in what, 2005.
21
        Α.
             Okay.
22
             So, there is a possibility of parole at 35
23
   years or the death penalty.
24
        Α.
            Okay.
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Okay. So, society -- that is why I asked --

25

Q.

- 1 told you that. Because society can include prison
 2 society or people on the outside?
 - A. Okay.

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- Q. Okay. On the second special issue, it kind of gets you to reaffirm the law of parties. And what I want to ask you about that is, you see that question gives you the option to send someone to death row even if they are not the person who pulled the trigger or wielded the knife.
- 10 A. I understand that.
- Q. Okay. If I show they intended to kill or they anticipated that a human life would be taken. Are you comfortable with that or are you a person who feels like if they didn't do the act themselves, they should never get the death penalty?
 - A. Because this isn't the only standard that's deciding whether or not the death penalty will be applied, I think I'm willing to accept it. Because the other issues are going to help decide if that's appropriate in the case.
- 21 Q. And they should.
- 22 A. Yeah.
- Q. But that wouldn't be an automatic for you?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. You wouldn't say: Well, if he is not the

actual --

- A. No. It would depend on those other issues.
- Q. Okay. And on the third special issue, mitigation, that's basically the final thing to answer before you decide. And the thing about mitigation is it has to be sufficient and sufficient in light of, as you can see in the previous sentence, all of the evidence. Okay?
 - A. Yeah.
- Q. So, you look at sufficiency and you also look at the circumstances of the offense. Is it sufficient in light of that? Is it sufficient in light of the defendant's character and background? And then you look at his personal moral culpability. How responsible is he for what happened. And that's what sufficiency refers to.
- So, mitigation is something that can be -I mean, anything could be mitigating. Would you agree
 with me? You could actually -- let me give an example
 because that's a broad statement.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Anything can be mitigating. Here is why. You can say the defendant is a drug user and has been addicted to drugs and that's a big problem for him, and that's part of why this crime happened and that's

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mitigating. Or, you can say the defendant's been clean
1
   and sober his whole life and has never, you know, done
2
   any of that kind of stuff and that's mitigating.
3
        Α.
            Uh-huh.
 4
            You can say the defendant came from a broken
5
   home and had this really sad upbringing, no family
6
7
   support, and that's mitigating. Or, you can say the
8
   defendant has all these people that love him who are
   here on his behalf and that is mitigating.
10
            Uh-huh.
        Α.
11
             It's all in the way you look at it. So, that's
        Ο.
   why the "sufficient" word is really important. It's not
12
13
   just can you find mitigation because I guarantee you
   can. There is always something. But is it sufficient
14
15
   in light of all the other evidence that you've heard.
16
            Uh-huh.
        Α.
17
            Does that seem reasonable?
        Ο.
18
        Α.
            Yes.
             Do you think can you apply that standard?
19
        Q.
20
        Α.
             I believe I can.
21
        Q.
             Okay.
22
                 MS. TISE: I'm going to pass the juror.
23
                 Thank you.
24
                 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Tise.
```

Mr. Madrid, you may proceed.

```
MR. MADRID: Thank you, Your Honor.
1
                      VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
2
3
   BY MR. MADRID:
        O. Dr. Denman?
4
            Yes.
5
        Α.
6
             Is that how people address you or do you they
7
   say Ms. Denman?
             Mainly Ms. Denman, but a lot of people don't
8
        Α.
   know that I have my doctorate.
10
             You work at the Nature Discovery Center?
        Ο.
11
        Α.
            Yes.
12
            And you went to Austin College. Is that right?
        Q.
            That's correct.
13
        Α.
14
             That's the kangaroos, right?
        Q.
15
            We're the fighting roos, yes.
        Α.
16
            My sister went there. That's why I knew that.
        Q.
   I wouldn't have known that otherwise.
17
18
        Α.
             Okay.
19
             So, you have a science background.
        Q.
20
        Α.
            Uh-huh.
21
             I mean, I don't myself. And I couldn't even
        Q.
22
   tell you what ecology is. That's what I was wondering,
23
   but studied I guess --
24
        A. Plants and animals, but primarily --
25
        Q. That's what ecology is.
```

- A. Yes. Primarily I studied animal behavior. I studied frogs taking care of their young. And so, I was out in the rain forest doing my research, watching frogs do what they do.
- Q. There was -- it seems like, based on your questionnaire and the questions from Ms. Tise, I guess you put a lot of thought and you said these things aren't black and white. You'd agree with that?
 - A. Yeah.

- Q. And you think -- I think you think before you speak probably more than most people do. You have kind of well thought-out -- like, this isn't an easy thing to consider. You would agree with that?
 - A. It's definitely not an easy thing.
- Q. And, I mean, you had a couple of hesitations and I could see you thinking. There was one of the questions that was asked about the sentence of life in prison not being enough punishment.
 - A. Uh-huh.
- Q. And it's one of these that's asked in the questionnaire and they ask it both ways. And let me see. A sentence of life in prison is enough punishment for a person convicted of capital murder. And then it asks: A sentence of life in prison is not enough. So, it's the same question, whether you agree or disagree.

```
1 | And you agreed both times.
```

- When you were asked the question here by

 Ms. Tise, I saw you thinking about that. What were you

 qoing to say?
- A. Well, just like I think I said a little bit on some of the -- it really depends on the specific situation, those mitigating circumstances, those other special issues, that you can't just automatically say that life in prison isn't going to be enough without knowing those circumstances.
- Q. And you had said, when you testified, also on questionnaire, that's why you put "depends" a lot. You would look at each situation, wouldn't you?
 - A. Yeah. I think that's what you are charged with. I mean, you are in a specific case, you're listening to specific evidence, there's a specific defendant. I don't think the questions, as they are, apply -- I mean, you can't have one answer across the board. That's just...
 - Q. I think that's what the questions are looking for, though, because we're trying to identify people that do have those answers.
- 23 A. Yeah. You are looking for polarized opinions.
- 24 Q. Yes.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

25 A. And my opinion is not polarized.

- Q. And when we're speaking of this, I'm just talking kind of in the air, but I'm not talking about punishment or guilt or innocence. You understand that? Do you understand after the Judge on Monday explained this and you spoke with Ms. Tise for a bit, that there is two phases of the trial.
 - A. Uh-huh.

- O. What do you understand those to be?
- A. The first phase is hearing the evidence to determine guilt or innocence. And if they are guilty, then the punishment phase is to determine what the appropriate punishment will be given the evidence and given mitigating circumstances.
- Q. Okay. So, I think you can almost teach a class on it already. Because most people wouldn't be able to break it down like that. That's what it is. We have guilt-innocence. And in any case, whether it's a traffic ticket or a DWI or capital murder, in Texas you have -- we have two phases of trial. And if you find somebody not guilty, everybody goes home, case over. If you find somebody guilty, we go to the second phase, which is punishment. Okay?
- And so, when we are talking about that -- and I think you understand this because you even wanted to make it clear that there is a presumption of

- 1 innocence. And you understand that, right?
- 2 A. Right.
- Q. Sitting here today, you presume -- and, you know, I didn't introduce myself. I'm Mario Madrid and this is Skip Cornelius. You probably don't remember.
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. This is our client, Obel Cruz-Garcia.
- 8 A. Uh-huh.
- 9 Q. And so, Mr. Cruz-Garcia, you know, sitting here
 10 today, you don't have an opinion as to whether he is
 11 guilty or not guilty, do you?
- 12 A. No.

14

15

16

17

- Q. And when we talk about punishment, we're not assuming anything, we're not assuming that we're getting to punishment. I don't want anybody -- you know, when we speak to people, they think, hey, we'll talk about the death penalty. Because, you know, there are two phases of trial. And would you agree with that?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. So, you know, that is the first phase. And I'm pretty sure you understand, besides the fact that you've said it, but because a lot of times when we speak in hypotheticals, the State and the defense, we say things. And I don't think the State means anything by saying, well, the defendant.

- A. I knew what she meant.
- Q. You're even more careful in saying, well, even in a hypothetical case, the person charged is -- they are the defendant, but they may be not guilty. Right?
 - A. Yeah.

Q. So, you understand that, I'm sure.

So, if you did get to the phase of finding somebody guilty in a hypothetical capital murder case, you are going to end up having these three special issue questions. And depending on how you answer, they could lead to death or life in prison.

- A. Uh-huh.
- Q. And so, you went over the first one, whether there is a probability that somebody will commit criminal acts of violence in the future. And would you be able to weigh the evidence, the evidence that you heard in the trial and any other kind of evidence in punishment evidence -- and that could be, you know, this person was a great father or husband, or whatever, neighbor, and bad things, this person did all these bad things. Would you be able to weigh those things and wait before you answer that "yes" or "no," or would it be -- it's a long question, and I'm sorry. But some people have the feeling, hey, this person committed capital murder, I found him guilty, and I know I have to

- 1 answer these questions, but, come on, they committed
- 2 capital murder, so, obviously, they are going to be a
- 3 continuing threat. Other people will wait, you know.
- 4 | And I'm wondering where you sit on that.
 - A. I think I have to wait.
- 6 Q. Okay.

- 7 A. I think you can't decide what the punishment is 8 without -- I don't know.
 - Q. You would wait for the evidence?
- 10 A. Yeah. I'm not wired that way. I'm wired that
- 11 | this is the process and this is what's reasonable and
- 12 | accepted by law, and I can't either presume guilt or
- 13 | presume once guilty what the punishment should be
- 14 | without hearing the evidence.
- 15 Q. Okay. Thank you. The reason I ask this is
- 16 because a lot of people are not wired that way.
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. Hey, it's a capital murder -- not even it's a
- 19 | capital murder. If it's a murder, that person should
- 20 get the death penalty. You know, a lot of people in
- 21 | society think that way. That's why we ask these
- 22 questions.
- 23 A. Too serious.
- 24 Q. So, you would be able to follow Special Issue
- 25 No. 1. You had a little bit of hesitation on the issue

of law of parties, if somebody intended, the second special issue, if somebody intended, whether they intended or they committed the -- for the person to be deceased or they anticipated it. And you answered that, well, it's all the special issues together. Okay? you had a little bit of hesitation on that, on whether they anticipated, or, you know, they weren't the person that committed, whether it was a shooting, stabbing, or

Did I confuse you with the question.

- A. No, you didn't confuse me. I'm trying to remember what my hesitation was.
- Q. The hesitation was you were asked if -- you know, if they weren't the actual -- let's just call them the -- you know, the person that committed the crime, but they were a party, you know, whether it was a bank robbery or whatever, the person driving the car, so they should have -- they should have anticipated or they intended the other person to go in and kill the victim.
 - A. Right.

whatever.

- Q. Then you had thought about that.
- A. I don't have hesitation with respect to whether or not they're held accountable for that, if, in fact, they are proven guilty of that, you know, and to be punished for that. I -- no, I don't.

```
Because you would wait till the third question
1
        Ο.
2
   to decide mitigation? Because this question is just
   asking if you find from the evidence that -- beyond a
3
   reasonable doubt that the defendant actually caused the
4
   death or intended to. So, it's actually a fairly easy
5
   question. I think it is because either you find that
6
   they did or they didn't, right? And then you go to the
7
8
   third question, which is you would look at the
   mitigating circumstances and decide if they warranted,
   you know, life in prison or death.
10
11
        Α.
           Uh-huh.
12
            You could do that?
        O.
            I believe I can.
13
        Α.
            Do you have any questions of me at all?
14
        Q.
15
   Because I don't have any more questions.
16
            I don't believe so.
        Α.
17
        Ο.
            Thank you.
18
            Thank you.
        Α.
19
                 MR. MADRID: Pass the juror.
20
                 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Madrid.
21
                 Okay. Dr. Denman, would you please step
22
         There is a side door here. The deputy is going to
23
   assist you in getting out.
24
                 VENIREPERSON: Okay.
25
                 THE COURT: We'll be right back with you.
```

```
1
                 (Venireperson exits courtroom)
2
                 THE COURT: As to Juror No. 62, Maura
   Denman, what says the State?
3
 4
                 MS. TISE: Judge, can we have a couple of
             We're discussing it.
5
   minutes?
6
                 THE COURT:
                             Yes.
7
                 (Pause)
8
                 MS. TISE: We're going to exercise a strike
9
   on Dr. Denman.
10
                 THE COURT: All right. Bring Dr. Denman
11
   back in, please.
12
                 (Venireperson enters courtroom)
13
                 THE COURT: Okay. Dr. Denman, you are
   excused as a juror in this case. We appreciate you
14
15
   coming down today, and all three days that you have been
   down. We couldn't do this without good involved
16
17
   citizens like yourself who are willing to give us all of
18
   this personal information. I assure you that this is
   going to be shredded.
19
                 VENIREPERSON: Okay.
20
21
                 THE COURT: So, you have done your duty.
22
   You don't have to come back on this case. And if you
23
   need some type of excuse for work, Deputy Perry has that
24
   for you. If you need a bus pass, we have that, too.
25
                 VENIREPERSON:
                                Thank you.
```

```
1
                 THE COURT: Thank you very much.
 2
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Thank you, ma'am.
                 VENIREPERSON:
3
                                Thank you.
                 THE COURT: I need a two-minute break.
 4
                 (Recess)
5
                 (Open court, defendant present, no jury)
6
7
                 THE COURT: Do both sides agree to proceed
   on Juror No. 70, Clarence Anderson, out of order?
8
9
                 MS. TISE: We do, Judge.
10
                 MR. CORNELIUS: We do, too.
11
                 THE COURT: Okay. And, Mr. Obel
12
   Cruz-Garcia, do you join your counsel and agree to
   proceed on Juror No. 70, Clarence Anderson, out of
13
14
   order?
15
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, ma'am.
16
                 THE COURT: Very good. Thank you, sir.
17
                 Please call the juror in, Deputy.
18
                 (Pause)
19
                 THE BAILIFF: 69 and 70 are both here.
20
                 THE COURT: Who's here?
21
                 THE BAILIFF: Both of them, 69 and 70.
22
                 THE COURT: I'd have to go through the same
23
   with them.
               So, let's bring in 70. We've already got
24
   approval on that. Okay?
25
                 (Venireperson sworn)
```

CLARENCE ANDERSON, VENIREPERSON NO. 70, 1 2 was called as a prospective juror, and testified as follows: 3 4 VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION BY THE COURT: 5 Good morning, Mr. Anderson. 6 7 Good morning, Your Honor. Α. 8 I need to make sure that you are -- let me get Ο. your sheet -- you are the same Clarence Leroy Anderson that is Juror No. 70 in the venire brought over on the 10 11 State of Texas vs. Obel Cruz-Garcia? 12 Α. Yes, ma'am, I am. And you heard my general voir dire on Monday --13 Q. 14 Α. Yes, ma'am. 15 -- in the courtroom across the hallway? Ο. 16 Α. Yes, ma'am. This is a continuation of that voir dire 17 Ο. 18 process, wherein one lawyer from each side will get to 19 speak with you. 20 Α. Yes, ma'am. 21 And they're going to cover some of the same Q. 22 topics that I covered, but it will be a lot more 23 personal to you. 24 Α. Yes, ma'am. 25 I give them each 30 minutes and I'll hold them Q.

```
to that time. And there is no right or wrong answers.
1
   Even though you're under oath and we expect you to
2
   testify truthfully, but there's not a right or wrong
3
   answer, just truthfully as to your feelings.
4
            Yes, ma'am.
5
        Α.
            If you have questions you need them to
6
7
   rephrase, please just ask them to do that.
8
                 And I have three questions that I need to
   ask you before we continue on. Do you have any moral,
9
10
   personal, or religious reasons why you would be unable
11
   to sit on a jury where the death penalty is a possible
12
   punishment?
13
        Α.
            No, ma'am.
            Do you know of any reason why you could not be
14
        Q.
15
   fair and impartial to both sides in a criminal case?
16
            No, ma'am.
        Α.
17
            Have any of your answers from the questionnaire
18
   that you filled out last Friday, May 31st, changed?
19
            No, ma'am.
        Α.
20
        Q.
            Very good. All of the lawyers, and I also,
21
   have a copy of your questionnaire. So, if you need one
22
   just let us know. All right?
23
                 THE COURT: And we're ready to proceed.
24
                 Mr. Wood, I have 10:21. Please proceed.
25
                 MR. WOOD: Thank you, Your Honor.
```

VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. WOOD:

1

3

- Q. Good morning, Mr. Anderson
- 4 A. Good morning.
- 5 Q. Welcome back. How are you doing this morning?
- 6 A. Doing good.
 - Q. Good. Happy Friday to you.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. My name, again, is Justin Wood. And together
- 10 | with Natalie Tise, we'll be the ones trying this case to
- 11 | you if you are one of the lucky ones that are chosen.
- 12 | All right?
- 13 A. Yes, sir.
- 14 Q. Okay. Steve Walsh back here in the back, he is
- 15 a law student and an intern of ours for the summer. And
- 16 | if you are chosen on the jury, you'll probably see him
- 17 coming in and out of the courtroom a lot, too.
- So, just like the Judge said, you know,
- 19 this is -- we want you to be open and honest with your
- 20 answers. Feel free to let us know anything that -- you
- 21 | know, chime in if I say something or ask something that
- 22 | you have feeling on. This is our chance to really get
- 23 to know you and get to talk to you one-on-one.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. I know you had -- you were on a trial many

```
years ago, several years ago. Is that right?
1
2
            Yes, sir.
        Α.
             Was that in this building or probably in
3
        Ο.
   another building?
4
             Actually, it was in the old, the very old
5
   courthouse.
6
7
                    That's what I thought.
        Q.
            Yeah.
                 So, you may have a perfect memory of that,
8
   but in case you don't remember, this process today is a
9
   little different and more intense than that one probably
10
11
   on the liquor violation.
12
             Oh, yeah.
        Α.
             And our goal here through this process is to
13
        Q.
   find the 12 of you that will be the most fair and
14
   impartial for this kind of case.
15
16
             Yes, sir.
        Α.
17
             And that's going to be our questions.
18
   going to be asking you some of what you -- about some of
   what you wrote in your questionnaire, some of what we
19
20
   talked about in general through the Judge, and go about
21
   it that way. Okay?
22
             Yes, sir.
        Α.
23
             So, what did you think Friday -- last Friday
```

25

when you came in and had to fill out this questionnaire that you might be a juror on a death penalty case?

- 1 A. Oh, my God.
- Q. You wish you had gotten a DWI trial, huh?
- A. I'm not going to say no to that. I mean, I
- 4 | think it's interesting, but it's a little scary, too.
- Q. Understandably, so. We're talking about some serious consequences, right?
- 7 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. In a case that obviously is going to be taken9 seriously.
- 10 A. Yes, sir.
- 11 Q. Before we get into some of those specifics, I
- 12 want to ask you a little bit about your background. I
- 13 see you work with the City of LaPorte. Right?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. And you work in animal control?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. So, you work closely in that position with
- 18 | LaPorte Police Department and law enforcement, do you
- 19 | not?
- 20 A. Yes, sir. We're a division of the police
- 21 | department.
- 22 Q. Okay. That's what I thought.
- Do you -- what is your role there? What
- 24 | are your duties there at animal control?
- 25 A. I'm the supervisor over animal control. I'm

```
over the officers and street division as well as the
1
2
   shelter.
            Okay. So, you oversee and are involved to some
3
        O.
   extent in some of the investigations?
4
            Yes, sir.
5
        Α.
            Okay. And I think you mentioned that through
6
7
   your work there I'm sure you've worked with Belinda
   Smith over the years?
8
            That's her name. I didn't write it down.
        Α.
                                                        Ι
   couldn't think of it till afterwards. Yes, sir.
10
            And that Belinda, for the record, is the
11
   prosecutor here in the office that deals with those
12
13
   cases?
            Yes, sir. She handles all of the animal cases
14
        Α.
15
   for the district attorney's office.
            Do you work with her very closely or from time
16
        Q.
```

- 17 to time?
- 18 A. I have met her once. She taught a class for 19 me.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- A. As far as any of the cruelty cases, we don't
 deal with them that much. The police officers actually
 handle them since we're a division of them. And by
 state law, we can handle -- we can file up to a Class C
 misdemeanor, but -- and, actually, I think -- I want to

```
say a Class A that could go into a felony. And so, we
1
   actually have our police officers handle those cases.
2
   So, I don't deal with her that much.
3
4
             Okay. So, nothing about your dealings with her
        Q.
   would prevent you from being fair to either side?
5
             No, sir.
6
        Α.
7
             Okay. And I know I mentioned your prior jury
        Q.
8
   service. That was a case you sat on around 15 years
   ago. It was a liquor violation or something like that?
9
10
        Α.
             Yes, sir.
11
             And I saw you were the foreman on that case?
        Q.
12
        Α.
            Yes, sir.
13
        Q.
             Anything about that prior jury service that
   would prevent you from being fair in this case?
14
15
        Α.
            No, sir.
16
        Q.
             Okay. And so, your dad is a police officer,
   right?
17
            Yes, sir.
18
        Α.
             And that's -- he's still --
19
        Q.
20
        Α.
             He officially retired last month. He had
21
   retired from one department several years ago and then
22
   was a reserve officer for the City of Clear Lake Shores.
23
        Q.
             Okay.
```

And he retired at the beginning of this month.

So, what department was he with prior to that?

24

25

Α.

Q.

- A. He was with Harris County for a while and then he went to Precinct 8. He got out of law enforcement for a couple years. And then he went back to Nassau Bay where he retired.
- Q. Okay. So, you grew up with a dad in law enforcement?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. I'm sure that adds an interesting twist on a childhood.
 - A. You don't get away with anything.
- 11 Q. Right.

- So, you know, based on that and you working with a lot of police officers on a daily basis, I'm referring to one of your answers in your -- or a couple of your answers in your questionnaire, which I thought was really interesting and also very appropriate. When asked about certain statements, whether you agree with them or not, one statement that you had said that you agree with is that you would tend to believe a law enforcement officer over a civilian witness. And then the next statement was: Some law enforcement shade the truth to make their case better. And you agreed with both of those.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Which is actually probably very appropriate,

```
right --
1
2
        Α.
             Yes.
             -- based on your background?
3
        Q.
 4
        Α.
             Yes.
             Would you agree with me, Mr. Anderson, that,
5
        Q.
   you know, everybody can potentially shade the truth,
6
7
   right?
             Yes, sir.
8
        Α.
9
             And growing up with a dad in law enforcement
        Q.
   and working in law enforcement, are you telling us that
10
11
   naturally you'd give some credit to police officers,
12
   right?
13
        Α.
            Yes.
             Do you remember when the Judge talked to you on
14
15
   Monday, last -- this past Monday about some of the
16
   general concepts of a trial and all of that stuff?
17
             Yes, sir.
        Α.
18
             And she was talking to you about witness
   credibility and she told you what the rules are.
19
20
   the rule is that every witness starts out equal before
   you've heard them testify. Right?
21
22
        Α.
             Yes, sir.
23
             And that applies to police officers,
24
   prostitutes, priests, whoever the person might be.
25
   Right?
```

Yes, sir. Α.

1

5

6

7

8

10

- 2 And can you agree with me or would you agree Q. with me that you would treat all witnesses equal, even 3 police officers, until you've heard from them? 4
 - Yes, sir. Α.
 - Are you going to give a police officer more credibility just because you know they are a police officer or will you wait to hear -- to hear them and see what they have to say?
 - I would hear what they had to say.
- 11 Okay. Thank you. 0.
- 12 One quick other item I was going to ask you 13 about. I see you've got two adult sons. Is that right?
- 14 Α. Stepsons, yes.
- And one is 35 and how old is the other one? 15 Ο.
- 16 Thirty-nine. Α.
- 17 Okay. And I have to ask this because it's on Ο. your questionnaire. I don't mean to -- I hate to have 18 19 to pry into your personal business, but I see that one 20 of your sons has had a criminal case in the past?
- 21 Α. Solicitation of a minor over the Internet, yes, sir.
- 23 Q. Was that here locally?
- 24 Α. Galveston County.
- 25 Q. Okay. How long ago was that?

- 1 Α. Three years ago, four years ago, three years 2 ago.
 - Q. Okay.

5

6

7

- Actually, it was probably four years ago 4 Α. because he waited to go to trial for a while.
 - Ο. Okay. Did he go to trial on that?
 - He pleaded guilty. Α.
- 8 O. Okay.
 - Served two years. Α.
- 10 Ο. Okay. Two years in prison?
- 11 Yes, sir. Α.
- 12 Okay. And is he out on parole, discharged? Q.
- 13 Α. He's discharged. He has to register, but he's 14 discharged.
- 15 Okay. What do you think about that? What are Ο. your thoughts on that, having gone through that 16
- 17 experience? Was that something close to you or --
- 18 I don't understand it. It's one of those --
- the Internet to me is a dangerous thing. I mean, it's 19
- 20 one of those you can get going back and forth on the
- 21 Internet. My biggest problem with my son is it's one of
- 22 those he actually left there and drove 30 minutes.
- 23 in my opinion, in that 30 minutes, where did it not
- 24 click to him that this was a juvenile. So, I just don't
- 25 understand it.

- Q. Yeah. Do you still have a relationship with him or --
 - A. Yes.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

- Q. Okay. Is there anything about having gone through that experience, such a close personal experience, that would affect you to be able to be a fair juror in a criminal case?
 - A. I don't see that there would be any problem.
- Q. Okay. Because I know sometimes it's hard. We tell people that you have to check your past background and experiences at the door when you are a juror.
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Well, that's easier said than done sometimes.
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Naturally for some people they aren't able to
 do that. And that's fine. You know, that's just one of
 those things that we have to dig a little bit and find
 out. You think that experience, that personal
 experience is something that you could set aside and
 listen to the facts of this case?
- A. Each case is different. I mean, it's one of
 the things that I think my training has taught me, each
 case is different.
- Q. Okay. Well, I appreciate that, Mr. Anderson.
 Sorry I had to ask you about that.

- A. That's okay.
- Q. Having been through the process, knowing the criminal justice system to the extent that you do, I want to visit with you just briefly about the parts of a trial and how a trial breaks down. As you know, a trial is two parts. We've got to decide the guilt-innocence phase of the trial --
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. -- and then the punishment phase of the trial.
- 10 A. Yes.

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- 11 Obviously, the evidence that is presented to Q. 12 you as a juror is different in each phase as well. 13 the guilt phase, we are just focusing on the facts of the case. We present to you evidence, Natalie and I 14 15 have the burden of proof of proving the case to you beyond a reasonable doubt, we've got to prove all of 16 17 those elements of capital murder to you, and our 18 evidence in the quilt phase has to focus in on that 19 case.
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. And all of the other stuff, whether it be criminal history, whether it be good things about the defendant, other bad things, whatever it might be, those don't come into play until the punishment phase. Do you follow me?

- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Well, on the guilt phase, the Judge read you
- 3 that indictment. What we have to prove to you for
- 4 capital murder are those certain things. And it's also
- 5 on that screen to your right. Those are the items that
- 6 we have to prove to you beyond a reasonable doubt. Is
- 7 | that clear?
- 8 A. Yes, sir.
- 9 Q. Okay. And you will hold us to our burden on
- 10 | those elements, will you not?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. Now, the Judge told you that -- and you know
- 13 | that -- where you sit right now, the defendant is
- 14 | presumed innocent.
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And he carries that throughout the trial. He
- 17 does not have to take the stand. The defense does not
- 18 have to call any witnesses. They can sit there and not
- 19 question any of our witnesses, if they wanted to. We
- 20 know that is not going to happen in this case --
- 21 A. Yeah.
- 22 Q. -- because these are two very skilled lawyers,
- 23 | but in a vacuum that could happen.
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. We carry that burden. Are you going to -- are

- you okay with that? Do you understand that? 1 2 Yes, sir. Α. Okay. And right in line with that, just like I 3 Ο. said, the defendant does not have to put forth any 4 evidence, he does not have to take the stand and 5 testify, and he has that Fifth Amendment right not to do 6 7 so. And that's something you are also okay -- or are you telling us and I think you agreed on Monday that you 8 are okay with that? I understand taking the Fifth because in some 10 11 of the cases that I have filed -- and they are all 12 municipal cases and all Class C misdemeanors -- our 13 prosecuting attorney has not made the points that he needed to make and I have seen defendants -- as you 14 15 know, in most class C cases the defend themselves. 16 Right. Q. 17 Get up when they would have been better off not saying anything and actually hurting themselves from --18 19 by speaking. 20 Q. Right. 21 So, yeah, I understand that. Α. 22 So, you've seen it firsthand? Ο. 23 Yes, sir. Α.
 - Q. In your role there at animal control, have you ever had to go into court and testify?

- Yes, sir. 1 Α. 2 Okay. On few or many occasions? Q. Few. I mean, probably 25 over the period. 3 Α. How did you like that, being on that witness 4 Q. stand? 5 6 Not really. I mean... Α. 7 Well, you aren't alone. Most people would Q. agree with you. It's a little different experience, 8 right --10 Α. Yes. -- getting up there. I've had to do it and 11 12 this is what I do every day. So, getting up there on that witness stand, immediately nerves set in, right? 13 14 Α. Yeah. 15
- Q. So, you are going to be able to identify with what some witnesses go through, won't you?
- 17 A. Yes, sir.
- 18 Q. Okay. The Judge went over some concepts,
- 19 Mr. Anderson, in the beginning of trial regarding law of 20 parties and accomplice witnesses.
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
- Q. Was that -- were those concepts you were generally familiar with?
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- 25 Q. And we'll talk a little bit about that in a

- minute, but in talking about the phases of trial, if as
 a jury the 12 of you decide and convict the defendant
 and find him guilty, then only at that point, as you
 know, do you move into the punishment phase of the
- 6 A. Yes.

trial.

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- Q. And like I said, at that point you may start hearing evidence of, you know, different things about a defendant, about a defendant's background, you might hear good things, bad things, whatever it is. You get a fuller picture of who we're talking about at that point.
- Now, in a capital murder trial, the Judge explained to you -- and I think for some jurors it's comforting and also maybe a little surprising -- that you don't just go back there and say: We want to assess the death penalty in the case or not.
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. You have to follow those three special issues
 19 and answer those questions. Do you remember that?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And those are questions that have to be answered independently and individually from each other.
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And to do that, the Judge is going to instruct you that you can evaluate -- you will be asked to

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evaluate all of the evidence. You can evaluate the evidence you heard in the guilt phase of the trial, you can evaluate the evidence, if you heard any, in the punishment phase of the trial in coming to a decision on the questions.
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A. Yes, sir.

Q. So, I want to visit with you a little bit about those special issues. On Special Issue No. 1, we call that the continuing threat issue. And you will be asked again to find beyond a reasonable doubt whether or not we've met our burden on this issue. And essentially you are going to be asked to decide if there is a probability that the defendant will commit future acts of violence. And in determining that, there are a few things in that question I want to talk to you about.

First of all is that word "probablity."

The Judge spoke to you a little bit about that on

18 Monday, but probablity, would you agree with me,

19 Mr. Anderson, is something less than a certainty, right?

20 Probability doesn't mean an absolute certainty.

A. Yes.

Q. But probably a little more than a possibility, right?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. More likely than not, some people say. A

```
probablity that the defendant will commit criminal acts
1
2
   of violence. Those words, criminal acts of violence, I
   don't have to prove to you -- or Natalie and I don't
3
   have to prove to you that it's necessarily another
4
   murder or capital murder that's committed. Right?
5
        Α.
            Yes, sir.
6
7
            Criminal acts of violence can mean many things.
        Q.
            Yes, sir.
8
        Α.
9
            It can be a crime of -- an act of violence
        Q.
10
   against a person or it may be property. Maybe it's a
11
   threat. Whatever in your mind constitutes a criminal
12
   act of violence.
        A. Uh-huh.
13
            Is that clear?
14
        Q.
15
            Yes, sir.
        Α.
16
            And then whether or not that would constitute a
        Q.
   continuing threat to society. And society can mean many
17
18
   things. It can be the streets you and I walk in and
   live in in Harris County. It can mean the society
19
20
   within prison, the prison walls, fellow inmates, guards,
21
   those people that work in prison. Would you agree with
22
   me?
23
            Yes, sir.
```

Q. And up front, I usually -- I got off track a little bit, but in a capital murder case there is

24

- typically two punishments, the death penalty, and if the 1 death penalty is not sought or assessed, then it's --2 currently it's life in prison with no parole. 3 Yes, sir. Α. 4 But that's current law. That law did not go 5 into place until 2005. So, prior to that, we have to go 6 7 back and assess the laws that were in place at the time. And as you know, the offense date in this case is 8 alleged to be 1992. So, we have to look at the laws as they were in '92. Does that make sense? 10 11 Yes, sir. Α. 12 And back in '92, it wasn't life without parole Ο. because we didn't have that. It was life with the 13 possibility of parole or the eligibility of parole after 14 15 serving a certain number of years. And in this case, it's 35 years. 16 17 Α. Okay. So, that's why we talk about the society, 18 19 whether it be in prison or out of prison. 20 Α. Yes, sir. 21 Is that a question that you are comfortable Q. 22 with? Any questions on that? 23 No. It seems pretty straight forward.
- Q. Okay. And I ask you that -- you know, when you are asked to decide this question, you, as a jury, will

```
have just convicted the defendant of capital murder in a
1
2
   hypothetical situation in order to get to that --
            Yes, sir.
3
        Α.
        Q.
            -- spot.
 4
                 Well, when doing so and when evaluating
 5
   that question, will you agree with me, Mr. Anderson,
6
7
   that you are not going to automatically answer that
   question "yes" just because you found someone guilty,
8
   right?
                  I would answer the question the way I felt
10
11
   that it needed to be answered.
12
             Right. And by evaluating the evidence and --
        Q.
            Yes, sir.
13
        Α.
14
             -- testimony and what you've learned?
        Q.
15
            Yes, sir.
        Α.
16
             Okay. And in that second question, that second
        Q.
   special issue, No. 2, that deals with that concept of
17
18
   law of parties. And, again, it's that same standard of
19
   beyond a reasonable doubt. You, as a jury, have to
20
   decide if, first of all, the defendant actually caused
21
   the death of the deceased.
22
        Α.
             Yeah.
23
        Q.
             But if you will recall, the Judge talked about
24
   that. Sometimes it doesn't necessarily have to be the
```

fact that he actually caused the death of the deceased.

- 1 It can be that he intended to kill that person or
 2 possibly another person or should have anticipate that a
 3 human life would be taken. Is that clear to you?
 - A. Yes, sir.

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8

- Q. Okay. And, again, you have to answer that question independently, too, and evaluate the evidence on that.
- A. Yes, sir.
- And at that point, you would go on to the third 9 Q. 10 question. Now, I want you to stop and think about where 11 you would be at as a juror or as a jury in this case, in 12 this situation. If you had answered -- if you, first of 13 all, found the defendant guilty, you have answered that beyond a reasonable doubt you believe there is a 14 15 probability that the defendant will commit future acts of violence, so you've answered "yes" to the question. 16 17 You've answered "yes" to the second question. You are 18 one question away from, essentially, sending a message 19 to the Judge, who will eventually assess the death 20 penalty, who will execute the defendant.
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. So, the answer to this question is the only question that is lingering at this point. Right?
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And at that point, you've got to step back and

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the law says that you have to look at -- and it tells
1
2
   you -- all of the evidence. You've got to look at the
   circumstances of the offense, you've got to look at the
3
   defendant's character and background, if you know
4
   something about that, if there is evidence for that.
5
   You've got to look at the personal moral culpability of
6
7
   the defendant. How involved was he, how -- you know,
   where was he at in this offense. And in deciding that
8
   you've got to say: Is there some sufficient mitigating
   circumstance or circumstances that would warrant
10
11
   something less than the death penalty? And in this
12
   case, life in prison with the possibility of parole.
13
   It's basically a gut check, and you say: Is there a
   mitigating circumstance or circumstances out there that
14
15
   would warrant a life sentence rather than death, and are
   those circumstances sufficient?
16
                 Now, think about this. You know, as far as
17
18
   mitigating circumstances go, we could be talking about,
   really, any number of things. Right?
19
20
        Α.
            Yes, sir.
21
            Any number of things might be considered a
        Q.
22
   mitigating circumstance. It could be something as
23
   extreme as possible mental illness. Would you agree
24
   with me?
25
        Α.
            Yes.
```

- Q. Maybe you learned -- for example, you've been around. That was kind of down in probably your neck of the woods. Back when Andrea Yates drowned her five children.
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Do you recall that case?
- 7 A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. It's a sad tragic case that hit home right here in Harris County, but --
- 10 A. Yes.

6

8

- Q. -- she went through a couple of trials, but one of the things that came out in trial, obviously, was her mental illness. And there wasn't a lot of debate on whether or not she had some serious mental illness.
- 15 A. Yeah.
- Q. You, as a jury, might consider something like mental illness as a mitigating factor possibly.
- 18 A. Yes.
- Q. And then you've got to evaluate that with the evidence, but you can imagine that a skilled lawyer could argue that almost anything is a mitigating circumstance, right?
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Maybe you learn that the defendant has a long -- a person has a long history of drug abuse. A

```
lawyer might say that's a mitigating circumstance, but
1
2
   on the flip-side, you might learn that that person has
   never been involved in drugs and has been clean and
3
   sober their whole entire life. On the flip-side of
4
   that, a lawyer could argue that also is a mitigating
5
   circumstance.
6
7
        Α.
            Yes.
8
        Ο.
            Right?
9
            Yes.
        Α.
             So, if you believe there is a mitigating
10
        Ο.
11
   circumstance, you've got to then take it a step further
12
   and find that it's a sufficient mitigating circumstance
   in light of all of the evidence.
13
14
        Α.
             Yeah.
15
             In light of the offense, the crime --
        Ο.
16
            Yes, sir.
        Α.
17
             -- whatever it might be.
        Ο.
18
                 Is that something that you would be
19
   comfortable answering?
20
        Α.
             Yes, sir. I don't know how comfortable you can
21
   be answering that question, but --
22
            Well --
        Ο.
23
             -- I think it's something --
24
        Q.
            A very good point Because it's not something
25
   that's going to be comfortable.
```

- 1 A. No.
- Q. Or easy to do.
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. But something that you could do?
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Mr. Anderson, we've talked a lot in general terms, you know. You know that at the end of this case, first, you know, we would be asking that you find the defendant guilty based on all of the evidence.

 We would then ask you to evaluate all of the evidence and if the evidence leads you in the direction of answering those questions, "yes," "yes," and "no," that

the answers to those questions would essentially lead to

the execution of Obel Cruz-Garcia. Right?

15 A. Yes, sir.

13

- Q. And you can -- people talk about being in favor of the death penalty and supporting the death penalty as a possible punishment, but you are now very close to being seated on a jury where that is going to be -- it's going to be real.
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. So, as you sit here, you know that Obel
 Cruz-Garcia sits here in this courtroom right there with
 the headphones on.
- 25 A. Yes.

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If the evidence led you in a direction that
    Ο.
allowed you to answer those questions in that way, could
you return -- could you do that? Looking at the
defendant, would you be able to do that?
         It would be hard, but I would have to answer
the questions honestly.
         And you would do that based on the evidence and
    Ο.
the testimony?
         Based on the evidence and the testimony.
    Α.
             MR. WOOD: I pass the juror. Thank you,
Mr. Anderson.
             VENIREPERSON: Thank you.
             THE COURT: Mr. Cornelius, please proceed.
                  VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
BY MR. CORNELIUS:
         Mr. Anderson, I'm Skip Cornelius. The Judge
    Q.
introduced us the other day.
         Yes, sir.
    Α.
         Well, this is Obel Cruz-Garcia. You met him
    Ο.
the other day. Mario Madrid --
         Yes, sir.
    Α.
         -- my co-counsel across the table from me.
    Ο.
             I want to hone in on the last question.
Can you ever imagine yourself not assessing a death
penalty where you've convicted someone of capital
```

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punishment?
1
2
        Α.
             Yes, sir.
             Tell me about that.
3
        Ο.
             It depends upon the mitigating circumstances.
 4
        Α.
   I mean, from what y'all have explained to me, it would
5
   be if somebody was involved in something, wasn't
6
7
   expecting it, you know, wasn't accepting the person to
   die or something, or wasn't -- accidents happen. You
8
   understand what I'm saying? It would be --
10
             All of those things that you said -- sorry for
11
   interrupting.
12
             That's fine.
        Α.
             All of those things that you've said indicate
13
        Q.
   to me that the person is not quilty of capital murder.
14
15
             Yes, sir. I quess it would be.
        Α.
16
             So -- we'll come back to it.
        Ο.
17
             Yes, sir. No problem.
        Α.
18
             I'm not giving enough information to answer.
        Q.
19
                 Tell me about yourself. Tell me about the
   life and times of Clarence Anderson.
20
21
        Α.
             Lived most my life in LaPorte. I've been with
22
   my job for 28 years.
23
        Q.
             Since you were 20, I guess?
24
        Α.
             Twenty-one.
25
        Q.
             Twenty-one.
```

And I wanted to ask a question. I think I 1 2 might have answered something wrong. Did I put 48 or 49 on my --3 Q. Forty-eight. 4 I'm 49. I apologize. 5 You can't be on the jury. That's it. 6 7 I'll tell you -- well, if I make a Α. No. 8 mistake, I'll tell you I made a mistake. I mean... 9 Q. Only kidding. I learned a long time ago that, you know, if 10 11 you mess up, you admit up to it, you know. And that 12 honesty is the best policy. 13 Q. Okay. That's not a problem at all. 14 Α. Okay. 15 But tell me something more about yourself. Ο. What do you do? Other than working for the police 16 department, what else do you do? 17 18 I help my parents out quite a bit there. 19 They're in their early seventies. I normally have 20 dinner with them every night. I've got two stepsons. 21 Well, I was divorced. Unfortunately, my ex-wife passed 22 away, but out of the marriage, I manage to keep the two 23 kids. I've got six grand kids and I enjoy them. 24 are all out of state right now. I'm ready for them to 25 move back. A little far away. I like to cook.

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1 to go out and do things.
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- Q. What about your law enforcement friends, do you have friends that you hang out with? That's kind of a young term. I don't know why I used that term "hang out."
- A. Not really. I mean, I'm friendly with everybody that I work with and we're friends. And, I mean, if we need something or something happens, we're there for each other. But I have always kind of kept my personal life separate from my employment and things like that. I found it to be -- not that -- I like the people. I've just found it to be good business.
 - Q. How many are on the LaPorte Police Department?
- A. There are 75 sworn officers and I think a total of 105 in the department. We're not -- the animal control is not sworn police officers. We're part of the support services division.
- 18 Q. I gave a speech out at Webster about two months
 19 ago --
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. -- at the police department. And I was shocked at how large their police department is.
- A. It's amazing how much that area has grown down there.
- Q. Unbelievable. Not in size, but --

- 1 A. Number, yes.
- Q. Has LaPorte done that, too?
- A. When I started, there were 35 officers. And it was probably 50 employees. So we've better than doubled.
- Q. But that's -- don't let me put words in your mouth. That's not your social circle, that professional circle?
 - A. No, sir.

15

- Q. So, do I need to worry about an impact that
 might be on you from the other law enforcement people
 there that are probably going to find out if you get
 selected to serve on this jury that you are on a capital
 murder jury?
 - A. No, sir.
- 16 Q. I know you wouldn't want it to.
- 17 A. No. And I don't feel that it would.
 - Q. I know you wouldn't want it to.
- 19 A. I'm not going to lie to you. If I get picked,
- 20 this is not what I'm looking forward to; but I figure
- 21 | it's a service and it's what you are supposed to do and
- 22 you're supposed to be as honest as you possibly can.
- 23 And, you know, y'all asked me not to look up the
- 24 | gentleman's name. I didn't do it. I want -- because if
- 25 | I was sitting in his shoes, I would want the most honest

```
people that I could get. And I would want everything
1
2
   followed. I believe in fair.
             So, you don't feel any pressure by the fact
3
        O.
   that you work for a police department to do what they
4
   would be proud of?
5
            No, sir.
6
        Α.
7
             Okay.
        Q.
8
             I mean...
        Α.
9
            What about your dad, as a life-long or career
        Q.
   police officer, what, if any, impact would that have on
10
11
   you?
12
            None that I can think of.
        Α.
13
        Q.
             What are his feelings about capital punishment,
   if you know?
14
             I think he supports it. I mean, you know, but
15
   I don't know that -- we've never really discussed it. I
16
17
   don't know that he thinks that anybody that's convicted
   of capital punishment needs to have the death penalty.
18
   I don't know. You know, it's not really something we've
19
20
   ever discussed.
            Never discussed it?
21
        Q.
22
            No. Other than I know he is in support of it,
   supports capital punishment, you know, but I don't --
```

supports capital punishment, you know, but I don't -you know, it's one of those I think it's easy to say
that you are in support of it, but I can tell you right

```
now that I would -- just sitting in this position, that
1
2
   it actually scares me. I mean, I will do my best to be
   fair and impartial as I possibly can and try and come up
3
   with the right decision.
4
             I know you would.
5
        Q.
            Yeah.
6
        Α.
7
             I know you would. Do you think that police
        Q.
   officers make mistakes?
8
9
             Yes, sir.
        Α.
             I mean, do you know any that don't make
10
        Ο.
11
   mistakes?
12
            No, sir.
        Α.
            Not demeaning them in any way.
13
        Q.
            No, no, no. I mean, nobody is perfect.
14
15
             You know that there have been problems -- I
        Ο.
   know you know there have been problems with people being
16
17
   convicted of capital murder that didn't commit the
18
   crime.
19
            Yes, sir. There's been cases overturned that
        Α.
20
   I'm aware of.
21
            We're going to plead not guilty in this case,
        Q.
22
   so we have to talk to you about capital punishment
23
   stuff --
24
        A. Yes, sir, I understand.
```

-- because as you know, there is only one jury.

25

Q.

1 A. Yes.

5

6

7

- Q. We don't have one jury for guilt-innocence and another jury for punishment in case we lose.
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. I don't want to telegraph to you or make you -I'm not as worried about you as the other jurors, but I
 want to make sure that you and I connect on this. I'm
 not thinking I'm going to lose this case and that's why
 I'm talking to you about punishment.
- 10 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. I'm planning to do my very best. I don't know what the jury is going to decide. And you know that we weren't there, we're not witnesses.
- 14 A. Yeah.
- Q. The D.A.s weren't there, they are not
- 16 | witnesses.
- 17 A. No, sir.
- Q. So, neither of us know what the jury is going to decide on guilt or innocence.
- 20 A. No, sir.
- 21 Q. But we have to talk to you about punishment.
- I'm going to get back to that in a minute, but I want to talk to you about guilt or innocence now.
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- 25 Q. You know the case allegedly happened in '92.

- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Do you -- I'm sure you realize that probably
- 3 | makes it a little harder for the State to prove a case
- 4 that happened in '92. Maybe not always, but just in
- 5 | terms of generally. You would think it would be a
- 6 little bit harder to prove one from '92 than it would be
- 7 from like 2012.

- 8 A. I would think so.
- 9 Q. Just because it's harder to find the witnesses,
- 10 | harder to get the witnesses, may not remember things,
- 11 | what's happened to the evidence.
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Do you think that the police sometimes misplace
- 14 or intentionally or unintentionally mess up the
- 15 | evidence?
- 16 A. I would hope they wouldn't do it
- 17 | unintentionally {sic}, but, I mean, I have known
- 18 evidence that has come up missing. I've known -- we've
- 19 | had -- not in LaPorte that I know of, but I know other
- 20 | agencies had people that -- had people steal evidence
- 21 out of an evidence locker.
- 22 Q. You know about the HPD Crime Lab, you followed
- 23 | that from years go?
- 24 A. I didn't follow it, but I know there was some
- 25 | problems there, yes, sir.

```
1
        Ο.
             Okay. Now, what I want to ask is would you
2
   be -- I don't know how to phrase this. Would you cut
   the State some slack and maybe not require them to come
3
   up all the way to their burden of beyond a reasonable
4
   doubt because the crime allegedly happened so long ago?
5
             No, sir.
6
        Α.
7
             I didn't think you would, but you see why I ask
        Q.
8
   that question?
9
        Α.
            No, no.
             I mean, that isn't what the law would
10
11
   contemplate. They have to prove it to the same burden
12
   that they have to prove it no matter when it happened --
13
        Α.
            Yes, sir.
             -- beyond a reasonable doubt?
14
        Q.
15
             Yes, sir.
        Α.
16
        Q.
             Whatever that means to you.
17
             Yes, sir.
        Α.
18
             Okay. And you know you decide --
        Q.
19
             Yes, sir.
        Α.
20
        Q.
             -- what proof beyond a reasonable doubt is.
21
                   I was surprised that there wasn't a
        Α.
22
   better definition than what there was, but...
23
             Well, we had a definition before. I mean,
24
   you've been in law enforcement long enough probably to
25
   know that. We had a definition for quite a long time,
```

- 1 but they did away with it.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. And said that they need to leave it up to the jury to decide, each individual juror to decide what proof beyond a reasonable doubt is for them.
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. It is fairly hard to define. We had another definition years and years ago, but now we have no definition, so...
- 10 A. Yeah.

7

8

9

14

15

16

17

- 11 Q. And so, that's the way it is.
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- 13 Q. So, if you are selected to serve,
 - the evidence in the case and you went back to deliberate with the other jurors and you weren't convinced in your own heart and own mind that the person on trial was

hypothetically, on a capital murder jury, and you heard

- 18 guilty and you listened to the other jurors and you had
- 19 to listen to the evidence and to the State's attorneys,
- 20 but after thinking about the whole thing, you may think
- 21 the person on trial might have done it, or maybe
- 22 probably done it -- did it, but you are not convinced
- 23 beyond a reasonable doubt, would you find him not
- 24 | guilty?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

- Q. I know that you know you are supposed to say that, but could you really do it?
 - A. I think so.

4

- Q. Okay. All right.
- A. I mean, it's one of those fair is fair, you
 know. And if I was -- I put everything as if I was in
 that case, I would want everybody to be as honest and
 upfront as they could be.
- 9 Q. What if a big part of the case -- that's an
 10 improper question. I can't go into anything that's even
 11 potentially part of this case.
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- 13 Q. Can't make --
- 14 A. Okay.
- Q. -- hypotheticals on that without tipping you off about something.
- 17 A. Okay.
- Q. Has there been anything that happened in your life that you think I ought to know about that might affect how you'd vote on guilt or innocence or on punishment?
 - A. No, sir.

22

Q. Any terrible crimes that you've either observed or followed or been a part of or any event that affected you personally or somebody that you know or love that I

```
probably ought to know about?
1
2
            No, sir, nothing I can think of.
             Well, I'm glad to know that.
3
        Ο.
 4
        Α.
             I'm glad to be able to answer it that way.
            Now, I want to talk to you quickly -- I'm kind
5
        Q.
   of moving into punishment.
6
7
             Yes, sir.
        Α.
             There is this Question No. 70, which if I were
8
        Ο.
9
   the person designing these questionnaires I probably
   would not put this in here.
10
11
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Judge, can he see your --
12
                 THE COURT: Yes. I have the times written
13
   on the front here. I will turn the page. It's Question
   No. 70, you said?
14
15
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Yes. And that's all I need
16
   him to look at.
17
                 THE COURT: I will hand it to you
18
   (indicating).
19
             (By Mr. Cornelius) Page 11, yes, sir.
        O.
20
                 I want to read it out loud while you are
21
   reading because that way it goes into the record.
                                                        Do
22
   you follow what I'm saying.
23
            Yes, sir.
        Α.
24
        Q. She's writing this down.
25
                 Please state whether you more closely agree
```

- or disagree with the following statements. I want you to go down to number F.
 - A. Okay.

4

5

6

7

8

- Q. A sentence of life in prison for someone convicted of capital murder may or may not be appropriate as it depends on the facts and circumstances. And you said: I agree.
 - A. I'm sorry. That was a mistake.
 - Q. No, no. That's not a mistake.
- 10 | A. No. I --
- 11 Q. Read it again. That's the right answer.
- 12 A. A sentence of -- okay. I still agree with 13 that. I think there is different circumstances.
- Q. Right. If we -- if that were the only question on No. 70, everything would be fine. And everything is fine anyway on No. 70, but I want to talk to you about it for a second.
- 18 A. No problem.
- Q. That's the most important part of No. 70 in my mind and you are absolutely dead-certain correct. But let's go up to number A. A and B are, frankly, the same question, one is written positively and one is written negatively. It's basically asking you or asking any juror if life is enough punishment and seeing what you'd say on that. And you're saying you disagree that life

- is enough punishment in A, but you are probably saying you disagree because it might not be in every case enough.
 - A. Yeah.

5

6

7

8

18

19

- Q. And the other one, life is not enough, and you agreed, but you're probably not saying in every case it's not enough, you are just saying in some cases it's not enough. Right?
- 9 A. Yes, sir. My feeling on that -- and if I 10 answered it wrong, that's -- each case is different.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- A. I mean, that would be the same on any case that
 I would file in our court. Each case is different, you
 know. I mean, I file charges and after listening to
 everybody talk in court and everything, and if they were
 found not guilty or not fined that didn't hurt my
 feelings at all.
 - Q. Okay. Let's go to D. This is the one I want to ask you about. And D and E are basically the same questions. We'll just look at D.
- 21 A. Okay.
- Q. A sentence of life in prison for someone
 convicted of capital murder is wasteful to society
 because we have to support that person in prison with
 taxpayer money. And you said you disagreed with that.

```
That it's wasteful? If it doesn't meet all the
1
        Α.
2
   three questions, just knowing the three questions now
   that the gentleman or whoever is -- doesn't actually
3
   deserve the death penalty, then why would it be
4
   wasteful?
5
        Q. Right. So, you are -- tell me if I'm right.
6
7
   What you're saying is by picking that disagree is that
8
   you are not going to give somebody a death penalty just
   because it's expensive to keep them in prison?
10
        Α.
            No, sir.
11
            Okay. That's a great answer for me. I'm just
        0.
12
   wanting --
13
        Α.
            No, sir.
            -- to talk to you about it.
14
        Q.
15
            That -- I'm sorry. That shouldn't enter into
        Α.
   the decision.
16
17
            Okay. When you answered that questionnaire --
        Ο.
   as you and I are sitting here now talking about it, have
18
   you -- are you just saying that I don't care what it
19
20
   cost, I'm not going to give somebody -- I don't care
21
   whether it's more expensive to do the appeals and the
22
   process and to try to execute them or more expensive to
23
   keep them in prison, I don't really know which one is
24
   the most expensive and I don't really care, I'm not
```

going to give them the death penalty just because

```
they'll have to be in prison and we'll have to support
1
2
   them?
            No, no.
3
        Α.
             That is what you're saying, right?
 4
        Q.
             That is what I'm saying, yes, sir. You know,
5
        Α.
   it's the taking of somebody's life. And I don't think
6
   that's really got a price tag on it, sir.
7
8
             All right. But do you have any knowledge as to
        Ο.
   whether it's more expensive to go through the whole
9
   process of prosecuting someone for the death penalty,
10
11
   giving the death penalty, doing the whole appellate
   process, which you know from your experience it takes a
12
13
   long time before somebody actually gets executed.
14
        Α.
             Yes, sir.
15
             You know that, right?
        Ο.
16
             Yes, sir.
        Α.
17
             And during that long period of time, they're
18
   having to be paid for in prison anyway.
             Yes, sir.
19
        Α.
20
        Q.
             And so, by the time they get executed, which I
21
   don't know if you know what the average -- and I'm not
   going to tell you, but you know it's a long time.
22
23
             Uh-huh.
        Α.
24
        Q.
             It's only from that point that the society
```

would say -- even the first dollar in making this

```
comparison. And so, there are people -- I will just
1
2
   tell you this. I think everybody agrees.
                                               There are
   people on both sides of that saying it's actually more
3
   expensive to execute them than it is to support them for
4
   the rest of their life. Plus there are statistics as to
5
   how long people can live in prison and how long people
6
   have lived in prison, and stuff like that. You probably
7
8
   know more about that, prison conditions, than a normal
   person. But do you have -- have you ever made any study
10
   of that yourself or read anything or been told by an
11
   expert about costs?
12
            No, sir.
        Α.
13
        Q.
            Okay. All right. That's a long way --
            What you said, though, it sounds more like --
14
15
   I'm just guessing, but it sounds like it's more to have
   somebody on the death penalty than it would be to
16
   support them in prison.
17
18
            It doesn't cost very much to support somebody
        0.
19
   in prison.
20
        Α.
            I wouldn't know, but I know none of this is
21
   cheap.
22
            Okay. All right. Now I want to talk to you --
        Ο.
23
                 MR. CORNELIUS: How much time do I have,
24
   Judge?
25
                 THE COURT: You began at 46. So, you still
```

```
have about -- a little less than ten minutes, eight
1
2
   minutes.
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Great.
3
4
        Q.
             (By Mr. Cornelius) I want to talk you about the
   three questions. Question No. 1 is on the board.
5
             Yes, sir.
6
        Α.
7
             I'm just going to be straight out up front with
        Q.
   you about what I'm afraid of.
8
9
        Α.
             Yes, sir.
             And I'm afraid that any juror, not just you --
10
        Ο.
11
   and I'm not picking on you.
12
             No. I understand.
        Α.
             Although the law enforcement full career scares
13
        Q.
14
   me --
15
            Yes, sir.
        Α.
             -- somebody that works in law enforcement on my
16
17
   jury. And, you know -- you know that I'm going to try
18
   this case -- whether you are on the jury or not, I'm
19
   going to try this case to a death-qualified jury.
20
        Α.
             Yes, sir.
21
             That means every single person on the jury will
        Q.
22
   have testified under oath that they believe in capital
23
   punishment and they can do it.
```

24 A. Yes, sir.

25

Q. Some people have said they believe in it, but

- 1 | they can't do it.
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. They're not going to ever be on the jury.
- 4 A. Yeah.

5

6

7

8

14

15

16

17

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19

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21

22

- Q. When you try one of your animal cruelty cases, or whatever, the State doesn't get to have a jury that's death-qualified on that. That's not an issue. But I am unfortunate enough to get a death-qualified jury to defend my client in front of.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. So, I don't want to have lost the case before I
 12 started.
- 13 A. I understand.
 - Q. One of the questions that I ask anybody that I think has a chance of making the jury is this: If you find somebody guilty of capital murder -- and earlier when we were talking about this, I asked you to tell me about how -- a case where you wouldn't give him the death penalty. What you said back to me were situations where it was an accident, or, you know, where he didn't anticipate the person would be killed. That's not what I'm talking about now. Those people wouldn't be convicted of capital murder.
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- 25 Q. I'm talking about a case where --

```
hypothetically where you and the other jurors hear the
evidence and are all convinced beyond a reasonable doubt
that the person on trial -- not this guy, some other
person on trial -- is guilty of capital murder. Okay?
And so, knowing that he committed a capital murder,
you've just convicted him of capital murder in my
```

A. Uh-huh.

hypothetical.

7

8

9

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23

24

- You are being asked this question: Is there Q. the probability -- not a guaranteed certainty, but is there the probability -- something more than a possibility and less than a certainty, but a probability, is it probable that this person would be a continuing threat to society, either in prison or on the outside. And there are people that would say: What somebody has done in the past is the greatest indicator of what they will do in the future. And so, I'm wondering from you -- and I have to accept your answer, whatever it is -- if you see yourself now in that position, having actually convicted someone of capital murder, that you can actually ever vote a "no" to that question, or will you always say: Yeah, I'm afraid that if I convicted him, there is at least the probability that he will be a continuing threat?
 - A. It would depend upon the background.

- 1 0. Okay.
- 2 A. And, I mean, yeah -- I mean, if -- you know, I
- 3 have no clue what any defendant, not just yours, would
- 4 say, you know, what they have done up to that point,
- 5 | what they have done since that point. That would have
- 6 to play a factor in it.
- 7 Q. So, I'm not trying to commit you to what you'd
- 8 have to have or not have to have.
- 9 A. Yeah, yeah.
- 10 Q. Is there a possibility you could say "no" --
- 11 A. Yes. I feel so.
- 12 Q. -- to that question?
- 13 You don't have a problem with that at all?
- 14 A. No. Like I said, nothing -- how do I say this?
- 15 | There is mitigating factors in everything.
- 16 Q. We'll get to mitigation.
- 17 A. Okay. I know, but that's --
- 18 Q. This is sort of an empirical thing. This is
- 19 | not mitigation.
- 20 A. Okay. Sorry.
- 21 Q. I'll go straight to mitigation because I think
- 22 | you understand the law of parties and --
- A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. That Question No. 2 is essentially a further
- 25 application of the law of parties, but a more committing

```
1
   application.
2
        Α.
             Yes, sir.
             So, I don't care about it for this purpose.
3
        Ο.
4
   This is my last thing I'm going to go over with you.
5
        Α.
             Okay.
             To get to this mitigation question --
6
        Ο.
7
             Yes, sir.
        Α.
8
             -- you will have -- and I'm talking about
        Ο.
   hypothetically next year or something -- you will have
9
   convicted the person that's on trial.
10
11
        Α.
             Okay.
12
        Q.
             Right? You wouldn't be in punishment if you
   hadn't convicted him.
13
14
        Α.
             Yeah.
15
             You would have convicted the person on trial
        Ο.
   and you will have answered Special Issue No. 1 "yes,"
16
17
   there is the -- whatever it would take, there is the
18
   probability he's going to be a continuing threat.
19
        Α.
             Yes.
20
        Q.
             You and the other eleven members have decided
21
   that. You will have answered Special Issue No. 2 "yes,"
22
   we believe beyond a reasonable doubt that he either
23
   personally killed that person or intended that person to
24
   be killed or knew the person was going to be killed and
```

just didn't care, you know --

```
Yes, sir.
1
        Α.
 2
             -- anticipated it.
        Q.
             Yes, sir.
3
        Α.
 4
             So, that person is on his way to a death
   sentence unless the jury decides to bail him out for
5
   whatever reason. And the Supreme Court, when they
6
7
   mandated this, the Supreme Court of the United States,
   called it mitigation.
8
        Α.
             Yeah.
             The theory behind this is to let a jury who has
10
11
   convicted someone answer the other questions in a way
   where that person is going to get a death penalty, to
12
13
   step back, take a breath, re-commit themselves to
   looking at the evidence, and then decide: Is there some
14
15
   reason why the case ought to be mitigated to a life
16
   sentence rather than a death sentence. Could you ever
   do that?
17
18
             Yes, sir, I think I can.
        Α.
             You really could?
19
        Q.
20
        Α.
             Yes.
21
        Q.
             I mean, it's hard to say --
22
        Α.
             Yes.
23
             You have not done it yet, but...
        Q.
```

A. I mean -- I mean, until I see it, I can't tell
you what I'd say one way or the other, but, yeah, I

```
think I could. It's one of those -- because when you
1
   are at that point you would need to -- I would want to
2
   look at everything, I would want to make sure that there
3
   wasn't something I missed or anything that would put
4
   somebody to death when they didn't need to be put to
5
   death.
6
7
            Okay. Do you have any questions? Those are
        0.
   all my questions, but if there is something bothering
8
   you or any question you have, now is the time.
10
            No, sir. No. Fascinated by the process, but
11
   that's -- no. I'm good, I think.
12
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Pass the juror, Judge.
13
                 THE COURT: Sir, if you'll step out this
   door right here to the side. The deputy will assist you
14
15
   because I think it's locked. We'll discuss you and be
   right back with you.
16
17
                 VENIREPERSON:
                               Okay.
18
                 (Venireperson exits courtroom)
                 THE COURT: As to Juror No. 70, Clarence
19
20
   Anderson, what says the State?
21
                 MR. WOOD: The State accepts Juror No. 70,
22
   Mr. Anderson.
23
                 THE COURT: Okay. And the defense?
24
                 MR. CORNELIUS: One second, Judge, if I
   might.
25
```

```
1
                 THE COURT: Very good.
 2
                 (Pause)
                 MR. CORNELIUS: We're going to exercise a
3
   peremptory, Judge.
4
                 THE COURT: All right. Granted. Juror
5
   No. 70, Clarence Leroy Anderson, is excused on a defense
6
7
   peremptory challenge.
8
                 You may bring him back in, deputy.
9
                 THE BAILIFF: Yes, Your Honor.
10
                 (Venireperson enters courtroom)
11
                 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Anderson, you are
12
   excused as a juror in the case. I really appreciate you
13
   coming down and sharing all your feelings.
14
                 VENIREPERSON: Thank you, Your Honor.
15
                 THE COURT: All three days with us.
                 VENIREPERSON: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.
16
17
                 THE COURT: It's a lot of effort to make.
18
   And we could not have this process without involved
   citizens like yourself.
19
20
                 So, I want to release you from all of the
   instructions that you received orally from me and in
21
22
   writing.
23
                 VENIREPERSON: Yes, ma'am.
24
                 THE COURT: And so, you can talk with
   anyone you want about the case. If you need something
25
```

```
1
   for work today, Deputy Perry can get that for you.
2
   will excuse you through 5:00 today.
                 VENIREPERSON: Yes.
3
 4
                 THE COURT: Also we can get you a bus pass.
5
                 VENIREPERSON: I don't need a bus pass.
   Thank you, Your Honor.
6
7
                 THE COURT: Thank you. Have a good day.
8
                 THE BAILIFF: Have a good day, sir.
9
                 (Venireperson excused)
                 THE COURT: We have 69 back there, but
10
11
   we're still missing 64, correct?
12
                 THE BAILIFF: I couldn't get ahold of her.
13
   She only had a work number on there. I left a message
   and I haven't heard back from her.
14
15
                 THE COURT: She's not there?
                 THE BAILIFF: No. He had her coming at
16
   1:00.
17
18
                 THE COURT: Okay. So, I'm going to ask
19
   both sides again: Is it the agreement that we take
20
   Juror No. 69 out of the turn, Patricia Rivera, and do
21
   her next? Is that okay with the State?
22
                 MR. WOOD: No objections.
23
                 MR. CORNELIUS: No objections from the
24
   defense.
25
                 THE COURT: Mr. Obel Cruz-Garcia, is it
```

```
1
   your agreement that we proceed on Juror No. 69, Patricia
2
   Rivera, out of order? In other words, we're skipping
   Nancee Pyper at this point. Is that your agreement?
3
 4
                 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
                 THE COURT: Very good.
5
                 Call her in, Deputy.
6
7
                 (Venireperson sworn)
8
          PATRICIA RIVERA LOPEZ, VENIREPERSON NO. 69,
   was called as a prospective juror, and testified as
10
   follows:
11
                     VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
12
   BY THE COURT:
        Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Rivera.
13
        A. Good afternoon.
14
        Q. You can have a seat.
15
16
                 THE COURT: Sorry. Go ahead, Deputy.
17
                 THE BAILIFF: Speak directly into the
18
   microphone.
            (By The Court) And your name is Patricia
19
        Q.
20
   Rivera?
21
        Α.
            Yes.
22
            You have it also listed as Patricia Lopez?
        Ο.
23
        Α.
            Correct.
24
        Q. Are you Lopez or Rivera?
25
        A. Now I'm Lopez. I'm married.
```

- Q. Okay. Now you are Lopez. Rivera was your maiden name. So, we're going to call you Patricia
 Rivera Lopez.
 - A. That's fine.
- Q. You are Juror No. 69 from the general venire panel that was called over in the State of Texas vs.
- 7 | Obel Cruz-Garcia?

8

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- A. Correct.
- 9 Q. And you heard my general voir dire on Monday of 10 this week, correct?
- 11 A. Yes.
- Q. This is a continuation of that process, voir
 dire. It's when the lawyers individually get to speak
 with you. I'm going to allow a lawyer from each side to
 have half an hour with you. I'm holding them to that
 time.
 - A. Okay.
 - Q. During that time, they will ask you questions over many of the same topics that I discussed, but it will be more personal, directed towards your feelings on the law. And you are sworn to tell the truth, but there is really no right or wrong answers. It's just the truth from your own heart. And we need to know that so that we can make sure that we seat a fair jury. If there is any questions they ask that you don't

```
understand, please ask them to rephrase them. Okay?
1
2
        Α.
             Okay.
             I do have three questions before we get going
3
        Ο.
          The first is: Do you have any religious,
   here.
4
   personal, or moral reasons why you would be unable to
5
   sit on a jury where the death penalty is a possible
6
   punishment?
7
8
        Α.
             No.
9
             Do you know of any reason why you could not be
        Q.
   fair and impartial to both sides in a criminal case?
10
11
        Α.
             No.
12
        Q.
             Have any of your answers from the questionnaire
   that you completed on Friday, May 31st changed?
13
14
        Α.
             No.
15
             Okay. We all have a copy of your
        Ο.
   questionnaire. So, if at any time you need to see that
16
17
   just to see how you answered a question, please ask for
18
        I'm going turn you over to Ms. Tise.
19
                 THE COURT: And it is 11:18 -- 11:19.
20
   Excuse me.
21
                 MS. TISE:
                             Thank you, Judge.
22
                      VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
23
   BY MS. TISE:
24
        Q.
            Good morning.
25
        A. Good morning.
```

- Q. Thank you for coming back to see us today. I know you really didn't have a choice.
 - A. Yeah.

- Q. But we still appreciate it.
- 5 A. That's funny.
- Q. My name is Natalie Tise and this is Justin
 Wood. He is my co-counsel on this case. And we work
 for the State of Texas. We're the prosecutors. Okay?
- 9 A. Okay.
- Q. I want to talk to you a little bit in general about some things that are on your questionnaire and just get your general opinion on capital punishment and criminal cases and that kind of thing.
- 14 A. Okay.
- Q. I want you to know this isn't a test. You know, your answer is your answer. And just be honest.
- 17 | Okay?
- 18 A. Okay.
- Q. Just relax and be honest like you would if you were talking to somebody you knew. Okay?
- 21 A. Okay.
- Q. When you got this questionnaire last week, I
 guess a week ago from today, and started filling it out,
 I guess it became pretty obvious pretty quick that this
 is a death penalty case.

A. Yes.

1

4

5

6

7

8

9

11

12

13

14

15

- Q. What went through your mind? How did you react to that?
 - A. I really didn't have anything to say because I haven't heard what happened, why people did it, or if they did it. I was just answering the questions.
 - Q. Okay. So, you just kind of took it as just an exercise and answered the questions asked. No real feelings one way or the other came over you?
- 10 A. No, ma'am.

Α.

No.

- Q. And the reason I ask that is some people will tell us: Wow, when I saw this, it just gave me a feeling of anxiety or made me nervous, or something like that, but that didn't happen in your particular case?
- Q. Okay. And had you really ever thought about
- 17 what your opinion was on the death penalty prior to that
- 18 Friday?
- A. Actually, three weeks ago I was watching TV and they were talking about that. So, it just caught my
- 21 mind. I'm not really against it or for it, to do it.
- 22 It just all depends on what happened for me. I need to
- 23 hear what's going on and see what I think of the person.
- Q. And so, what was it that you were watching on
- 25 TV that brought this up and made you think about it?

- A. It was just a program in Spanish on Univision.

 And they were talking about lawyers that are against it

 and lawyers that are for it.
 - Q. And did the program seem to take a position one way or another?
 - A. It just put me in between. Because I agree with some of the stuff the person who agreed on and then I was also thinking about the other side, which is they don't believe in that.
- Q. Okay. So, what kind of things were said in the program that you felt like you agreed with?
- A. I think that if you do something, you need to
 pay for it; but it just all depends on -- like she spoke
 about on Monday, on the evidence. And then I cannot
 judge someone right then and there. I need to hear what
 happened, the story, and then make my mind up.
 - Q. That's a really good position. And really, that's the position that the law requires you to take, to be open-minded and listen to the evidence and make your decision from there. And what I hear you saying is that's how you look at it.
 - A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Was there anything about the program that stuck out in your mind where it bothered you or made you think negatively towards the death penalty?

A. No.

1

5

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7

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9

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20

- Q. Okay. How long would you say you've felt favorably towards the death penalty as a possible punishment in certain types of cases?
 - A. Never.
 - Q. So, was it just something you really first thought about three weeks ago when you watched the program?
 - A. Pretty much, yes.
- Q. Okay. Do you know how members of your family feel about it, people that are close to you?
- 12 A. Some are against it and some are in favor.
- Q. Okay. Anything about that that you think might cause you some concerns if you are a juror? Anybody in your family who might pressure you or --
- A. Well, no because whatever happens here is just between me and all of you. Nobody else has to know about it.
 - Q. You are absolutely right. This is not something that you are really allowed to discuss outside of what you hear in the courtroom until after the case.
- A. Some people tell me, like before all of this,
 that I should be against it or for it. I just listen to
 what they are saying, not what I -- I don't have to tell
 them what I believe in this case or in other matters in

```
my life.
1
2
             That's absolutely right. And you are just
        Q.
   recently married. Do you know how your husband feels
3
   about the death penalty?
4
            He is the same as I am. He needs to hear the
5
   evidence. We've spoken about this because of the
6
7
   program. So, he told me the same things that I believe
8
   in.
            Do you think the punishment should fit the
        Q.
           What would be your opinion of that statement?
10
   crime?
11
        Α.
             I don't understand.
12
             When you're talking about needing to hear the
        Q.
   evidence and hearing the evidence of the crime, hearing
13
   evidence about the defendant, good or bad, do you think
14
   the punishment should fit the evidence in the case?
15
16
        Α.
             Yes.
             Okay. And if it's the death penalty, then it's
17
18
   the death penalty, if that's where the evidence leads
19
   you?
20
        Α.
            Yes.
             I want you to take a look across the courtroom.
21
22
   Obel Cruz-Garcia is sitting right there in the gold tie
23
   with the headset on.
```

A. Uh-huh.

24

Q. He is the defendant in this case. And at the

```
end of the trial, Justin and I are going to ask you to
1
   follow the law and the evidence, wherever it leads you,
2
   and if it leads you to answer those special issues that
3
   the Judge talked to you about in the way that it leads
4
   to the death penalty, will you be able to do that
5
   knowing that Mr. Cruz-Garcia is a living, breathing
6
   human being just like me and you?
7
             Yes, I would.
8
        Α.
9
             He might have family who is here to support
        Q.
   him, he might have people who love him.
10
11
        Α.
             Yes, I understand.
12
             Will you be able to do it?
        Q.
13
        Α.
             Yes.
14
        Q.
             Thank you.
15
                  I want to ask you some things that are on
   your questionnaire.
16
17
        Α.
             Okay.
18
             One of the things that you talked about -- and
   if you need to look at your questionnaire, I think we
19
20
   can maybe find you a blank one if you want to refresh
21
   your memory.
22
        Α.
             Okay.
23
                 THE COURT: I've got the cover page, but
24
   the rest of it (indicating).
```

(By Ms. Tise) On Page 3 at the bottom, one of

25

Q.

- the things that you said is: I believe if you do 1 2 something wrong, you need to man up to the consequence. 3 Α. Yes. Okay. What did you mean by that? 4 I mean not just this particular case, but 5 anything. Whatever you do in your life, good or bad, 6 7 it's going to have a consequence. 8 O. Okay. If you do something great, you're going to have 9 an award. It doesn't matter what you do. If you do
- an award. It doesn't matter what you do. If you do
 something bad, then you are not going to get an award.
 You might get something else. Not just in this
 particular case, but in anything that anybody decides to
 do in your life.
- Q. Okay. You also -- on Page 9 you were asked what you felt like the objective of punishment for criminal offenses was.
 - A. I really didn't understand that question.
 - Q. Okay.

19

- A. I just wrote what I thought an answer would be.
- Q. Okay. And can you tell me what you -- what you wrote? Because I wasn't able to read some of the words.
- 23 | So, is it because all crimes you see are the same?
- A. It needs to stop. Like, we see something like on what I was thinking, like the shooting, one shooting

```
started and then like this whole massive start --
1
   shootings are shootings and then now like it's going
2
   to -- the firemen that died. And then everyone is
3
   starting fires. So, I don't know if that's people that
4
   are doing it or not, but I believe that everybody needs
5
   to see how we're able to stop crime in this world.
6
   I mean, killing somebody, hitting somebody, it doesn't
7
   matter, robbing. That's what I believe. There needs to
8
   be something for that to be stopped.
            Okay. So, the way I'm reading this is you're
10
11
   concerned about crime and violence in our society.
12
        Α.
            Yes.
            Is that fair?
13
        Q.
14
        Α.
            Yes.
15
            And you think that it needs to be addressed?
        Ο.
16
        Α.
            Yes.
17
            Okay. I think that's a legitimate concern to
   have and a legitimate thought about it. The one thing I
18
   want to make sure, though, is if you -- would you agree
19
20
   with me that capital punishment is not always the way to
   stop it, it's going to depend on the facts of the case?
21
22
        Α.
            Correct.
23
            Okay. So, there is different types of
24
   punishment and depending on the type of crime
25
   committed --
```

A. Yes.

- Q. -- and other factors, that would control your decision on whether or not you would get the death penalty?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. One of the things that you said in your questionnaire -- and looking at Page 10, you said: Any person, man or woman, young or old, who commits capital murder should pay with his own life. Okay. And a lot of times people answer these questions before they really know a lot. I mean, you are forced to. You are given it before you really know. You have not heard from the Judge about how the system works.
 - So, I'm concerned about your -- it says:

 Any person. And it's the way the question is written.

 So, it kind of puts you in a position of "yes" or "no"

 to something extreme, but now that you know how capital

 murder works and how the trial process works, would you

 agree with me that that's going to depend on the

 situation, or do you feel like if we present evidence

 and you convict someone of capital murder, you are

 automatically going to give them the death penalty?
 - A. No. I'm in between.
 - Q. Okay. So, you would -- you would want to hear other evidence to make that decision?

A. Yes.

1

4

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17

18

Q. Okay. It also asks you -- it says: Capital
punishment has never been effective in preventing crime.

And you agreed with that. What did you mean by that?

A. Well, what I understand of that question is like I have heard a lot of cases that there has been capital murder, but that's not stopping either other

people that are still killing other people.

- 9 Q. Right.
- A. So, I agree that it's not something that is 100
 percent or 90 percent or 10 percent it's going to
 reflect on anyone else because it's still happening.
- Q. Right. Do you believe that capital punishment does prevent that one person from committing other crimes once the punishment is --
 - A. Well, if they do capital murder, they are not going to do it again, but they are never going to learn what they did as well. So, it's half and half.
- Q. Do you think that would affect you, that position would affect you at all in the decisions that you make in the case --
- 22 A. No.
- Q. -- how much you think it deters other people in society?
- 25 A. No. Because we are only talking about one

```
specific person at this time.
1
2
        Q.
             Okay. Fair enough.
                 Also No. 6, it says: Life in prison is
3
   more effective than capital punishment. And you said
4
   "yes."
5
             I agree on that depending on the evidence.
6
7
             Okay. Tell me a little bit more about your
        Q.
8
   feelings on that.
9
             I believe that -- like I said, I'm halfway in
        Α.
   it or against it, because depending on what type of case
10
11
   it is, then I believe that that person should not be
12
   dead, they should pay life, like without having freedom.
   Because once they're dead, they're not going to be here
13
   so it's not going to be -- they killed somebody, he's
14
15
   dead, oh, well, that's it. And I don't think that's the
16
   way it should be, not the easy way, depending on the
17
   case.
             So, you think the death penalty is the easy
18
        Q.
19
   way?
20
        Α.
             Yes, sometimes.
21
             So, you also said "sometimes." So, tell me
        Q.
22
   what the opposite side of that would be.
23
        Α.
             Like I said, it's all depending on what type of
24
   case it is.
25
        Q.
             Okay.
```

- A. What the evidence is. That's why I'm saying sometimes. Because I'm 50 percent against and 50 percent not against it, so...
- Q. Okay. So, I didn't ask you this question at the beginning, but when we talked about where you stood on capital punishment, where would you put yourself on a scale of one to ten? If you would -- one would be absolutely against the death penalty, and ten would be absolutely in favor of the death penalty.
- 10 | A. Five.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

- Q. But I'm going to take five off the table. So, where would you put yourself?
- 13 A. Six.
- Q. Okay. And if you were in charge in the state

 of Texas and you could make all the laws, would you have

 the death penalty? Would it be part of the laws if you

 were the boss?
 - A. I don't know.
- Q. Okay. What would be your thinking? What would be the -- your struggle there? What would be your thoughts on both sides of that position?
- A. I'm just thinking what if one of my family members would be there.
- Q. Uh-huh. Yeah. Be charged with a capital crime?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. And I see you are getting emotional about that.
- 3 Do you have some personal experience there you want to
- 4 | tell us about?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Okay. Obviously, that's an important
- 7 consideration. You want to be fair.
 - A. Yes.

- 9 Q. And you would want someone you cared about to
- 10 be treated fair.
- 11 A. Yes.
- Q. You know, you're very young. And I know this
- 13 | is -- we're asking you about -- but you also seem like a
- 14 person who has really thought about things. But there
- 15 are a lot of people who will come here and tell us: You
- 16 know, I agree with the death penalty, I agree with how
- 17 | the process works, and I like -- I see myself as a
- 18 law-abiding person, and I like to follow the law, but
- 19 don't put me in the position where I have to make this
- 20 decision. We hear that a lot. Some people will say
- 21 that as soon as they get up there. Do you feel that
- 22 | that's you?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And I'm noting that you are crying and
- 25 | you are visibly emotional and I'm not trying to make you

uncomfortable.A. No, n

3

4

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19

20

- A. No, no. I'm fine.
- Q. But, you can support the death penalty and support the law and be concerned about crime and punishment, but at the same time feel like you are not a person who wants to be involved in this process, where you are the one who has to make the decision.
- A. Correct.
- 9 Q. That is okay. It's absolutely okay. I just
 10 need you to be honest about it and tell us. Because if
 11 you are chosen to be a juror, you have to take an oath
 12 to follow the law. And if you feel emotionally that
 13 would be something you could not do, this is the time to
 14 tell us before you are put in the position.
- 15 A. That's true.
 - Q. Okay. So, that's true that --
- A. I would be able to follow it, but I'm still going to feel -- I'm a very emotional person.

VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION

BY THE COURT:

- Q. I couldn't hear. You would be able to follow --
- A. I would be able to follow -- I'm -- I would be able to follow the law because that's what you were talking about on Monday and how things work, but I -- I

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```
could follow the law on how to go ahead with this
process, but that doesn't mean that I'm still not going
to feel emotional about it.
    Q.
         Okay. Let me question her a little bit.
             Ms. Tise's question was would you be able
to take the oath to follow the law and follow the
evidence, and wherever that evidence leads you to.
if the evidence leads you to answer the questions in a
manner that you know would result in the death penalty
being handed down to a defendant, do you feel that your
emotions are so strong or your feelings are so strong
that you would not be able -- that that would interfere
and you would not be able to --
             I would be able to do it. Like, I would
        No.
be able to do it, but inside I would still feel
emotional, but I will be able to do the right thing on
what the evidence is given to me.
    Q. Very good.
             THE COURT: You can proceed, Ms. Tise.
             Make sure you keep your voice up so
everyone can hear.
                 VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
BY MS. TISE:
         I want you to look across the courtroom again
and you see the defendant there.
```

```
1
        Α.
             Yes.
2
             You can do it --
        Q.
                 MR. CORNELIUS: That's asked and answer,
3
           We object to the question. It's been asked and
4
   Judge.
               It was just asked.
5
   answered.
6
                 THE COURT: Let her finish her question,
7
   because she hasn't finished her question yet.
                 Before you answer, I'll rule on the
8
9
   objection.
10
                 You can finish your question or rephrase
11
   it.
12
        Q.
             (By Ms. Tise) Look across the courtroom.
13
        Α.
             Okay.
14
             And we talked about this earlier, but since
        Q.
15
   then something has happened and you became very
16
   emotional. And I just want to make sure that if the
17
   answers to the questions based on the evidence leads you
18
   to say "yes," "yes," and "no," you know that's going to
   lead to the death penalty.
19
20
        Α.
             Yes.
21
        Q.
             Correct?
22
        Α.
             Correct.
23
             And can you answer those questions that way if
24
   that's where the evidence leads you knowing that it's
25
   going to result in his execution?
```

- 1 Α. Yes. 2 Q. Okay. 3 THE COURT: I will allow that. (By Ms. Tise) You talked a little bit in your 4 Q. questionnaire about police officer witnesses or you were 5 asked about police officer witnesses. 6 7 What page is that? Α. It's on Page 12. There's two questions about 8 Ο. 9 it and I want to ask you a little bit about that. 10 Α. Okay. 11 Okay. Do you believe police officer witnesses 0. 12 are the same as other witnesses or do you believe you would give them more or less credibility? 13 14 They are the same. Α. 15 Okay. And so, when they come into the Ο. courtroom and take the stand, you would treat them 16 17 equally? 18 Α. Yes. 19 Okay. Question number D says you would be --Q. 20 you would require the defendant to present some evidence 21 to prove his innocence.
- A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. Is that true?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. And have you changed your position on that

```
since the Judge talked to you on Friday?
1
2
        Α.
             No.
             Okay. Do you understand that the law says you
3
        Ο.
   have to -- you have to presume him innocent and he
4
   doesn't have to present any evidence?
5
             Yes, I understand.
6
7
             Okay. And I appreciate your honesty on that.
        Q.
   That's, you know, something that a lot of people
8
9
   struggle with. They really feel like that the defendant
   should present some evidence. And despite what the law
10
11
   says, that's going to be in the back of their mind when
12
   they render a verdict on a case. Are you one of those
   people?
13
14
        Α.
             Yes.
15
             Okay. You also said that if a defendant
   doesn't testify in a case, you will lean towards voting
16
   guilty because he did not testify.
17
18
             Depending on the evidence.
        Α.
             Okay. But the law says that regardless of what
19
        Q.
20
   the evidence is, you cannot hold the fact that he did
   not testify against him.
21
22
        Α.
             I understand that.
23
        Q.
             But despite the law, do you feel like that
24
   would be something that you would hold against him?
```

No.

Α.

```
1
        Ο.
            Okay. You'd go ahead and follow the law?
2
        Α.
            Yes.
            But you would still require him to put on some
3
        Ο.
   evidence even though the law doesn't require it?
4
        Α.
5
            Correct.
                 MS. TISE: May we approach?
6
7
                 THE COURT: Yes. So we can get this on the
8
   record, let's just take the juror out.
9
                 MS. TISE:
                            Okay.
10
                 THE COURT: Can you step out for just a
11
   moment?
12
                 (Venireperson exits courtroom)
13
                 THE COURT: Yes, Ms. Tise.
14
                 MS. TISE: I mean, I have other questions
15
   for her if she's going to remain in the mix, but I do
   think -- I don't want to waste the Court's time, is what
16
17
   I'm struggling with. I don't want to spend time going
18
   over the special issues with her --
19
                 THE COURT: Are you asking Mr. Cornelius if
20
   he wants to agree on her?
21
                 MR. CORNELIUS: No. Yeah. I don't know if
22
   she's -- I'm not going to agree on her.
23
                 THE COURT: Okay. So, you want to question
24
   her as well; is that correct?
25
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Yes.
```

```
1
                 THE COURT: All right. So, then I'm going
2
   to let him question her.
3
                 MS. TISE:
                            Okay.
                 THE COURT: And I know she said some
 4
   things, but she's kind of waffling her back and forth.
5
   I'll let him question her. So, go ahead and complete
6
7
   your questioning. It's not a waste of the Court's time.
8
                 MS. TISE:
                            That's what I wanted to do, make
   sure you wanted me to do that before --
9
10
                 THE COURT:
                             Thank you. I appreciate it.
11
                 (Venireperson enters courtroom)
12
                 THE COURT: All right. Let's proceed.
13
                 Ms. Tise, you may proceed.
             (By Ms. Tise) Now, that the -- that one
14
        Q.
15
   particular question, the one about requiring the
16
   defendant to put on some evidence in a case --
17
            Uh-huh.
        Α.
18
            -- you have said it unequivocally several
   times, but I can tell you that the defense is going to
19
20
   talk to you about that. And I'm trying to kind of cut
21
   to the chase and figure out if that's how you feel, that
22
   you will require him to present some evidence?
23
            Yes.
        Α.
24
            Okay. Even though the law says he is not
25
   required to?
```

```
1
        Α.
             Yes.
2
             And even though the law says he's supposed to
        Q.
   be presumed innocent --
3
4
        Α.
             Yes.
             -- if you don't hear some evidence or see some
5
   evidence from him, you would not be able to treat him
6
7
   fairly and presume him innocent?
8
        Α.
             Yes.
9
             Okay. Do you have any doubts about that
        Q.
   feeling or do you feel strongly about that?
10
11
        Α.
             I feel strongly about that.
12
        Q.
             So, you are not going to change your mind?
13
        Α.
             No.
14
             That's how you feel?
        Q.
15
        Α.
             Yes.
16
             And you understand that the law says they have
        Q.
   no burden in this case, they don't have the burden to
17
18
   put on any evidence?
             Yes, I understand.
19
        Α.
20
        Q.
             But that is a burden that you have inside of
21
   you --
22
        Α.
             Yes.
23
             -- that you would place on them?
        Q.
24
        Α.
             Correct.
25
        Q. And you feel strongly about that?
```

```
Yes, I do.
1
        Α.
2
                 MS. TISE: I'm going to pass the juror.
3
                 THE COURT: Thank you.
                 Mr. Madrid.
 4
                 MR. MADRID: Thank you, Your Honor.
5
6
                      VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
7
   BY MR. MADRID:
8
        O.
             Good morning.
9
        Α.
             Good morning.
10
                 MR. MADRID: Just one moment.
11
                  (Pause)
12
             (By Mr. Madrid) Good morning, Ms. Lopez.
        Q.
             Good morning.
13
        Α.
14
             I'm Mario Madrid?. This is Skip Cornelius.
        Q.
15
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Good morning.
16
             (By Mr. Madrid) This is our client, Obel
        Q.
17
   Cruz-Garcia. I just want to ask you some questions.
18
   You filled out this questionnaire.
19
        Α.
             Okay.
20
        Q.
             Ms. Tise has asked some questions. And I will
21
   go over some of the same things. Okay?
22
        Α.
             Okay.
23
             Now, you -- I guess it says you were born in
24
   California, lived in Arizona, and you live here now?
25
        Α.
             Correct.
```

- Q. How long have you been here in Texas?
- 2 A. Three years.
 - Q. And you have a little girl, right?
- 4 A. Yes.

- 5 Q. So, you know, I know this is -- this could be
- 6 | kind of an intimidating experience, especially being
- 7 | young. I think if I was 24, I'd be sitting up there
- 8 | scared. Even now I would be if people were asking me
- 9 questions. So, I don't want you to feel that way.
- 10 | Because it's just us and we're just looking for, you
- 11 know, what you believe.
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. And it looks like you have some kind of -- just
- 14 | coincidentally to all of this, you happened to watch
- 15 show on Univision three weeks ago.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Most people wouldn't walk in here thinking
- 18 about this to begin with, but, you know... So, you
- 19 happened to think about this. You work at a law firm.
- 20 | They do a little bit of criminal law?
- 21 A. Yes, they do.
- 22 Q. And so, maybe you have a little bit of
- 23 | knowledge of these things, right?
- 24 A. Correct.
- Q. But, I mean, you are not -- you're not a

- 1 lawyer, haven't been to law school. I don't know if
 2 you've been in a courtroom maybe for a traffic ticket or
 3 something.
 - A. No.

- Q. Okay. So, you don't really know how this whole system works other than what you have seen on TV, right?
- 7 A. Correct. Or just traffic. I had one ticket, 8 yeah, once.
- 9 Q. And you understand that in our system, the
 10 United States and in Texas, you are innocent until
 11 proven guilty. You probably heard that as a kid your
 12 whole life, right?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. And part of what that is, is there is a couple of things. One, have you ever heard anybody say: I'm going to take the Fifth or he took the Fifth?
- 17 A. No, I have not.
- Q. Okay. What they are referring to when they say that, if you haven't heard it, they are saying they don't have to testify if they are accused of a crime.
- 21 | Have you ever heard of that?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Why do you think that is?
- 24 A. I don't know.
- Q. Well, if you remember from Monday -- and you

```
may or may not remember -- the Judge was talking about
1
   it and just kind of laid out the framework and the
2
   rules, right?
3
 4
        Α.
             Yes.
            You remember that?
5
        Q.
6
        Α.
            Yes.
7
             And she was talking about murder and then if
        Q.
8
   there was something else, an aggravating circumstance, a
   kidnapping, robbery, whatever --
             Uh-huh.
10
        Α.
             -- then it could become a capital murder,
11
        0.
12
   right?
             Okay. Yes.
13
        Α.
14
            And in any kind of case, whether it's this case
        Q.
15
   or any case down in traffic court, there is two sides.
16
   You know the two sides --
17
        Α.
             Yes.
18
             -- the State and then the defendant, right?
        Q.
19
             Correct.
        Α.
20
        Q.
             And do you remember what the Judge said, who
21
   has to prove what in that process?
22
             Well, it would be the State, right?
23
        Q.
             The State is making the charges, so they have
24
   to prove the --
25
             That he is guilty.
        Α.
```

```
1
        Ο.
             -- case beyond a reasonable doubt.
2
             Okay.
        Α.
             And she explained to you in that process that
3
        Q.
   the defendant is, like you said, innocent until proven
4
   guilty, right?
5
6
        Α.
             Correct.
7
             So, today like sitting here, Obel Cruz-Garcia,
        Q.
   he is innocent, right, he is not guilty?
8
9
        Α.
             Because of what the law says? Well, yeah.
             And what you said when you testified earlier,
10
11
   you were saying you would have to listen to the
12
   evidence, right?
13
        Α.
             Correct.
             And so, you have not heard any evidence, so you
14
        Q.
15
   can't --
             Can't make up my mind.
16
        Α.
17
             You can't make up your mind, right?
        Ο.
18
                  So, in a trial what happens is the State
19
   has to put on the case. The Judge explained to you that
20
   the defense doesn't have to put on anything. But part
21
   of that process -- I don't know if you've ever seen
22
   anything on Court TV or anything like that.
23
        Α.
             No.
24
        Q.
             No trials or anything?
25
        Α.
             No.
```

- Q. The way it works, if you are in court, we're kind of sitting like this and the jury is sitting over here and the State brings witnesses and they sit where you are sitting.
 - A. Okay.
 - Q. Do you know how that works?
- 7 A. Yes.

6

15

- Q. And then the State asks them questions and then
 the defense can do what's called cross-examine them.
- 10 They can ask them questions to try to figure out if they
 11 are credible or telling the truth. Do you follow me?
- 12 A. Uh-huh.
- Q. So, on -- in that process, that's part of -
 you know, the defense doesn't have to put on any

evidence. And at that point, they're not putting on any

- 16 evidence, but they're just questioning the State's
- 17 | evidence.
- 18 A. Okay. I understand.
- Q. Right? But in the process, after the State is done with all their witnesses, the law tells us that the defense can either get up and say: I call witness A, B, or C, or whatever, or they can say: Defense rests and they don't put on any evidence.
- 24 A. Okay.
- Q. Okay. Why do you think that is?

- A. For the good of your client.
- Q. No, no. Why do you think they don't have to put anything on?
 - A. Because you are not charging him with anything. They are the ones who need to provide to you like he is the one that's guilty.
 - Q. Yeah. The State has to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that they are guilty. So, the defense doesn't have to prove that they are not guilty. Okay?
- 10 | A. Okay.

- Q. They can contest the charges, but they don't have to put on any evidence. Do you agree with that or not?
 - A. Well, I do agree with that, too, so...
- Q. And the question that I'm having -- and I know the question that the State has is: Hold on, you just said -- you just said the opposite of that.
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. I don't want to put any words in your mouth.

 Okay? Part of me thinks that, one, you are intimidated and scared because you're sitting up here and people are asking you questions and then part of it this is a real serious case. Okay? And then another part is that you don't -- nobody would expect you to know what the rules are, you know, in a courtroom or in a case, you know.

```
That's why we have lawyers. That's why you have a judge
1
2
   that rules, that makes a ruling whether one side or the
   other side is doing something correctly. Right?
3
            Uh-huh.
        Α.
 4
            And so, nobody would expect you to do that.
5
   And we're asking all of those things that I don't think
6
7
   you know and you are trying to answer the best you can.
8
   I'm not trying to put any words in --
            Well, the thing is, what she said, I do believe
9
        Α.
   if he did something wrong and if he believes he didn't
10
11
   do it, then he should speak for himself. I believe in
12
   that. I could hear that, but what you are explaining to
13
   me now, obviously, they are the ones who have to bring
   the evidence for him to be --
14
15
            Found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt?
        Ο.
            -- guilty. Correct. So, I believe in that as
16
        Α.
   well.
17
18
            Can I stop you real quick?
        Q.
            Uh-huh.
19
        Α.
20
        Q.
            Those are two different things. I haven't
   asked you about that yet, which is kind of like when
21
22
   people say: I take the Fifth, and that's when they
23
   don't testify. Okay? But that is one issue. And the
24
   first issue is should -- you know, if the question is,
```

well, if the State is bringing the evidence and the --

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

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13

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17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

```
you know, because of that, they have to prove it beyond
a reasonable doubt, the defense doesn't have to put
anything on. And you say you believe in that, right?
    Α.
         Yes.
         Well, part of putting something on or not
putting something on is testifying or not testifying.
And that's why that right is there, because a person
shouldn't have to prove they are not guilty. Okay?
    Α.
         Correct.
         But you said the opposite. And I'm really
trying hard -- I don't want you to think you said that.
So, don't agree with me because I'm saying this.
         I'm not --
    Α.
         If you don't agree with me, you don't have to
    Q.
agree with me. But the first part you believe -- it
sounds like you believe that the State -- I mean the
defense does not have to put anything on because it's
the State that's bringing the charges, right? Well, you
also said --
             THE COURT: Counsel, why don't you -- I
know you're asking a bunch of questions, but give her a
chance to answer your question because she's not getting
     I don't think she's answering the question on the
record. You are talking off her answer.
```

MR. MADRID: Okay.

Thank you.

```
(By Mr. Madrid) So, I'm going to ask that
1
        Ο.
2
           Do you believe -- and you can tell me "yes" or
   again.
   "no" -- whether the State has the burden to put on the
3
   case?
4
5
        Α.
            Yes.
            To prove the case. I'm sorry. To prove the
6
7
   case.
8
            Yes.
        Α.
9
            And because of that, the defense does not have
        Q.
   to put on any evidence. Do you agree with that?
10
11
        Α.
            No.
12
        Q.
            Okay. And could you explain that? Because you
   said -- you said something differently just a second
13
14
   ago.
            I believe that if he believes that he is
15
   innocent he needs to speak. Because if everything is
16
17
   against him and he is not guilty, I'm going to get up
18
   and say: You know, I didn't do this. I believe in that
   as well.
19
20
        Q. Okay. And if -- I'm going to go through -- if
21
   you'll let me ask you the question. Because that's the
22
   second part of the question, was whether he should
23
   testify or not testify. Right?
24
        A. Uh-huh.
25
        Q. But fundamentally it's just the first part --
```

```
and you said this earlier. You agree the State has the
1
   burden to the case beyond a reasonable doubt?
2
        A. Do I agree, you said?
3
        Ο.
            Yes.
 4
 5
           Yes, I do agree.
        Α.
            And because of that, part of that is the
6
7
   defense doesn't have to put any evidence on. Okay? Now
   what I hear you telling me is: Yeah, I agree with that,
8
   but I'd like to hear the defendant testify. And a lot
   of people would like to hear the defendant testify.
10
11
   That's a common feeling. You know, like people say:
   Hey, if that was me, I would go testify. Right?
12
13
        A. Correct.
            Now, they don't -- under the rules and the law,
14
15
   they don't have to testify. So, this is a big concern
   because if you were to sit on as a juror, you would get
16
   instructions from the Judge that you can't use that, the
17
   fact that they didn't testify, as evidence against them.
18
19
   Okay?
20
            But that doesn't mean I'm going to be against
   it because of that. I am going to listen to the
21
22
   evidence and from there is where I make my own decision
23
   on what I believe.
```

Q. Which is what you would make it on --

24

25

A. On the evidence. Not because -- just because

```
he didn't testify, I'm not going to put: Okay.
1
   didn't testify, I'll go directly that he is guilty. No.
2
   Because I'm not going based on that. I'm going based on
3
   the evidence.
4
            So, what I hear you saying is that you would
5
   like to -- and we would all like to -- hear what the
6
7
   person accused has to say.
8
        Α.
            Correct.
            But you wouldn't use that as evidence, you
9
        Q.
   would look at all of the evidence that the State
10
11
   presents; is that what you're saying?
12
        Α.
            Yes.
13
        Q.
            And I want you to say it yourself because --
                 That is what I said right now. I'm going
14
            No.
15
   to hear what the State is going to give me as evidence
   to see if he is guilty or if he is innocent. I would
16
   personally -- like, if they said all of the evidence is
17
   against him for him to stand up for himself and say:
18
   You know, I didn't do this, or this is what happened.
19
20
   That's what I would like to hear from him, but if you
   guys and he decides not to do it, it doesn't mean
21
22
   necessarily that he is guilty. I'm not going to do
23
   that.
24
            And you can understand why somebody would -- or
```

could you understand. I will give some reason why

```
someone would not want to testify. One, their attorney
1
   might say: Hey, this isn't a good idea, they didn't
2
   prove their case. That could be a reason.
3
4
        Α.
            Yes.
                  There's many reasons. I work for an
   attorney's office and I understand that part as well.
5
6
        Q. Or another reason could be they are nervous.
7
   Like, if you were sitting up there in your recuse
8
   something.
        A.
            Uh-huh.
            And the State was -- you know, they have really
10
11
   good attorneys and they wouldn't be trying this case if
12
   they weren't good attorneys. They would be
13
   cross-examining you, right?
14
        Α.
            Correct.
15
            And based on your nervousness or intimidation,
        Ο.
   you might appear to be guilty.
16
17
            Uh-huh.
        Α.
18
            Right? So, you can understand there are
        Q.
19
   reasons?
20
        Α.
            Yes.
            There is -- you know, it seems like when you
21
        Q.
22
   had the chance earlier -- hold on just a second.
23
                 (Pause)
24
        Ο.
            (By Mr. Madrid) There was some -- you were
   asked some questions on a scale of one to ten, ten being
25
```

```
1
   the -- you know, like the strongest feeling for the
   death penalty and one being you'd never have a death
2
   penalty, you said six, correct?
3
            Uh-huh.
        Α.
 4
            Do you still feel the same way?
5
        Q.
             Well, I still feel like it's a five.
6
        Α.
7
             Okay.
        Q.
8
             But you guys don't give me the option of five.
        Α.
             Okay. And the reason you say five, why do you
9
        Q.
   say five?
10
11
        Α.
             Because I haven't heard any evidence. I don't
12
   know what's happened, why he is here.
13
        Q.
             And so, you would wait before you made a
   decision on this case, on either side on -- and we're
14
15
   not saying -- you know, a lot of this that we're talking
   about, you know, is the death penalty, but you
16
   understand there are two phases. There is the
17
18
   quilt-innocence part -- and we're not saying that our
19
   client is guilty. We're not here to say that at all.
20
   You know, we're here to defend him and fight this case.
21
        Α.
             Correct.
22
             In the event in any case that our client were
23
   found guilty, we'd go to the second part, which is the
24
   punishment phase. Okay? And so, on either phase of the
```

trial you would -- would you wait and listen to all of

```
the evidence?
1
2
        Α.
             Yes.
3
        Ο.
             Okay. Thank you.
 4
                 MR. MADRID: Pass the juror, Your Honor.
                      VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
5
   BY THE COURT:
6
7
             Okay. I have a couple questions, Ms. Lopez.
        Q.
             Uh-huh.
8
        Α.
9
             I'll just tell you the law is --
        Q.
        Α.
10
             Okay.
11
             -- and then I'm going to ask you a few
        Q.
   questions regarding the law in regards to your feelings.
12
   And I know that a lot of people come in here and they
13
   want to be law-abiding citizens and follow that law.
14
   You have told both sides a little bit different things.
15
   So, that's why I want to clear it up for my own sake. I
16
17
   don't care if you can or cannot follow exactly what the
   law is, but we need to know what's in your heart.
18
19
   Because we don't get you over there in that jury box and
20
   you not be able to follow the law. Okay?
21
        Α.
             Okay.
22
             Let's start with the presumption of innocence.
23
   And each individual in our society is presumed innocent
24
   of whatever charge that may be brought by the government
25
   against them. And it is completely up to the State, the
```

```
government, in whatever fashion, whether it's United
1
   States government or the state government or the local
2
   government to provide the evidence that proves them
3
   quilty. So, as they sit before you today, you must give
4
   them the presumption of innocence. Okay? That's what
5
   the law states, but a lot of people come in here and
6
7
   say: You know, I have a background, I work at my job, I
   see plenty of people, whatever the reason is, or the
8
   fact that they are indicted, or anything like that, I
9
   can't really give them that presumption of innocence, I
10
11
   already think they are starting out a little bit behind.
12
   And you mentioned that in one of your answers, that you
13
   leaned towards guilty. Okay? You can see how that
   doesn't -- that conflicts with a presumption of
14
15
   innocence. Okay?
16
            That's because I'm not giving a chance, is that
   what you mean or --
17
            If you lean towards guilty already -- you
18
        0.
   should be at zero. If there is a -- if there is a
19
20
   barometer, zero is presuming innocence and guilty is 100
   percent, you should start at zero when you first see
21
22
   somebody. And it's up to the State's to get you all the
23
   way -- once you start hearing evidence, all the way over
24
   to that barometer. If you look at it like a
25
   speedometer, I guess is a better way to say that.
                                                       Τо
```

```
get you all the way past, over here to -- maybe not 100
1
2
   percent, but to beyond a reasonable doubt. Okay?
            Now I understand.
3
        Α.
             And you're saying you're leaning towards guilty
 4
        0.
   and you have not heard anything.
5
        Α.
            Now I understand.
6
7
             And it's good that you understand that concept
        Q.
   now, but I need to know from -- not only that you
8
   understand it, but that you actually can follow that
   concept because you've told us in a couple different
10
   ways that you are not inclined to give the defendant the
11
12
   presumption of innocence, that you are leaning towards
13
   guilty. Is that the way you feel?
            No, no. Since I have to hear the evidence, the
14
15
   way you explained it to me now, I can give him the
   presumption of innocence.
16
17
             The presumption of innocence?
        Ο.
18
        Α.
             Yes.
             And you feel certain you can if you were asked
19
        Q.
20
   to take an oath on that?
21
        Α.
             Yes.
22
             Okay. And the second one is requiring the
```

defendant to present evidence. We talked about it in a

couple different forms. In our courts, testimony is

evidence. So, if the defendant chose to testify, that

23

24

1 is evidence. But there is other evidence, too. There is physical pieces of evidence. Like, you know, a gun, 2 or, you know, a blade of glass, anything physical, DNA, 3 you know, pictures, those are all evidence. And the 4 defendant would be given an opportunity to put that on 5 if he wanted to, if his defense team wanted him to and 6 7 he decided he wanted to, but he's never required to do that. In other words, they could sit there the entire 8 trial say nothing, cross-examine no witnesses, and put on no evidence themselves. There is no requirement that 10 11 they do so. And the reason being, once again, going back to it's the burden of the State to prove beyond a 12 13 reasonable doubt his guilt. But like I said, a lot of people come in 14 15 and they feel the same way that you talked about feeling, that you are going to require him in one way or 16 another to present some evidence or to testify himself 17 18 because you probably would do it if you were charged, 19 you said. Correct? 20 Α. Correct. 21 So, in both of these situations, I need to ask Q. 22 you -- and I don't care whether you are going to require 23 that or not. It makes no difference to me whatsoever. 24 We just need to know one way or another. Will you require the defendant or the defense team to put on some 25

```
evidence in this case in order for you to find against
1
   the State?
2
             The evidence the State gives me -- if the State
3
        Α.
   gives me the evidence towards that he is guilty more,
4
   then I would require him to give me evidence that he is
5
   not. I would require the defense.
6
             Okay. And that kind of makes sense, but you
7
        Ο.
   are still requiring the State to make their burden.
8
   Would you require them to prove to you?
10
        Α.
             Yes.
11
             And then you would be voting for guilty, which
   would be fair, correct?
12
13
        Α.
             Correct.
            And unless and until -- then at that point you
14
        0.
15
   can say that you would require him --
16
             Correct. Well, that would be their option, but
        Α.
   if they don't, then I wouldn't be against that if he
17
   doesn't. And I wouldn't be more in favor if he does.
18
   It would help me to make my mind up.
19
20
        Q.
             Okay. How about if the State doesn't meet
21
   their burden of proof; they get really close, but they
```

- are not quite there and you didn't see any evidence from the defense at all?
- 24 Then that wouldn't affect my decision on what evidence I have already. 25

- Q. What would your decision be in that situation?
- 2 A. Keep on hearing the evidence that I do have.
- 3 | That's what I'm going to base it on.

- Q. But you wouldn't have any more evidence. You would have what the State gave you, which is really super close, and then the defense rests. What happens to your situation then? You don't have any more evidence. What is your verdict?
- A. Well, it would be -- it would be the death penalty, whatever they -- I would decide on what the evidence that the State gave me only.
- Q. That's what I'm trying to tell you. If the State gets really close to proving their case beyond a reasonable doubt, but not quite there, and then it's time -- they rest, they're finished, and then it's turned over to the defense and they don't have any evidence, what is your -- what is your verdict going to be? Let's not talk about the death penalty. Let's talk about the guilt stage. They get really close to proving that beyond a reasonable doubt and then they rest and, then it's turned over to the defense and you don't hear any evidence whatsoever. What is your verdict going to be?
- A. Guilty.
- Q. Why would it be guilty?

- A. Because they don't give me enough evidence for me to believe that he is and the State is the one who gave me more than -- and if I believe their evidence is true, then I would -- it would be guilty, but if the State gives me evidence that I don't think it would be guilty for him, even though they have less evidence, I would be in favor that he is guilty. I don't know if I'm explaining myself.
 - Q. I think you are fine. Yeah.
- Okay. And let's go on to the very last one, the right to remain silent. And so, you said you would like to hear him testify. And that would be evidence, too. What if he doesn't? Once again, let's do that same scenario. The State put on their evidence, gives you a bunch of evidence, it's really close to proving to you beyond a reasonable doubt, doesn't quite get there, but really, really close, and then it's the defense's side and you really want to hear from him, but you don't hear from him. What is your verdict?
 - A. It's not going to -- it's not --
- Q. Would your verdict be guilty or not guilty in that situation?
- 23 A. Guilty.

- 24 Q. Okay. All right. Thank you very much.
- 25 THE COURT: Can you step out?

```
1
                 VENIREPERSON: Sure.
2
                 THE COURT: Actually, you can stay right
   here.
3
                 Is there a motion from either side?
 4
                 MS. TISE: Not from the State.
5
                 MR. CORNELIUS: We need a minute with our
6
7
   client.
8
                 THE COURT: All right. Why don't you go
   ahead and step out and we'll be with you in just a
9
   minute.
10
11
                 (Venireperson exits courtroom)
12
                 MR. CORNELIUS: We will not make a motion,
13
   Judge.
14
                 THE COURT: You are not making a motion?
15
                 MR. CORNELIUS: We're of the opinion that
   she's confused and we're not making a motion.
16
17
                 THE COURT: Okay. Does the State have a
18
   motion?
19
                 MS. TISE: Well, I went back and read the
20
   questions that you just asked her, Judge, and I think
21
   we're in a position where we have to because we're going
22
   to have error if we don't. Because she just said she'd
23
   find the defendant guilty even if there wasn't
24
   sufficient evidence, even if it got close. So, out of
25
   concern for the record on the case, I think we have to
```

```
1
   make a motion.
2
                 THE COURT: I put sua sponte. I was just
   looking at that. I believe that she could not be a fair
3
   juror, I put sua sponte. So, I will grant your motion
4
   for cause on this juror. And you can bring her back in.
5
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Hold on.
6
                                           Let me get my
7
   thing on the record here.
8
                 THE COURT: Very good.
9
                 MR. CORNELIUS: It's the defense's
   intention to take her as a juror. I don't know if the
10
11
   State would have accepted her or not, but we want her as
12
   a juror. We don't feel -- we're satisfied with the
13
   answers that she gave us in our questioning. I know
   she's vacillated back and forth. And I'm not arguing
14
15
   with the Judge, not arguing with the State, but I want
   the record to be clear we want her as a juror and we
16
17
   don't want her disqualified for the reasons the Court
   disqualified her on the basis of the State's motion.
18
   We're not making a motion. We're clear that we would be
19
20
   happy to waive their understanding of what she said or
   even the Court's understanding of what she said. We
21
22
   want her as a juror. That's it. That's my record.
23
                 THE COURT:
                             Okay. And I'm going to put on
24
   the record that based on the Court's questioning of the
   juror -- and the Court put it in the most simplest terms
25
```

```
1
   that I could. My hypothetical was that the State had
   not -- had gotten very close, but had not met the burden
2
   of proof beyond a reasonable doubt on the evidence and
3
   asked her if the defense -- the defendant did not
4
   testify or if the defense provided no evidence
5
   whatsoever what her verdict would be and she said
6
7
   quilty. Both times she said quilty. For that reason,
8
   the Court is of the opinion that she cannot follow the
   law. Whether it's a misunderstanding of the law or just
   her general feelings, she has told me what she would do
10
11
   twice. And so, I'm going to grant the motion for cause
   on Juror No. 69, Patricia Rivera Lopez. Okay.
12
13
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Judge, out of fairness, I
   never laid down the law. What if our defensive theory
14
   didn't include putting on evidence and we're not
15
   concerned with that because we do intend to put on
16
   evidence or we do intend to call the defendant? What if
17
18
   that was not something that's ever going to be a factor
   in the case?
19
20
                 THE COURT: Well, you can't tell me that
21
   now.
22
                 MR. CORNELIUS:
                                 That's true.
23
                 THE COURT: You can't tell me what's going
24
   to happen in the future. And she's already telling me
   that she's not even going to require them to meet their
25
```

```
1
   burden by her answers.
2
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Okay. That's fine.
                 THE COURT: I just can't see --
3
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I have never seen a case
 4
   where -- decided where the State waived -- I mean the
5
   defense waived a Fifth Amendment requirement or the
6
7
   State meet their burden requirement. I've never seen a
8
   case on that. So, this is new stuff. I wanted to give
   you every opportunity to put what you wanted to put in
   the record. And I think you quite honestly said, and
10
11
   truthfully said, I can't make those representations to
12
   you now because we wouldn't make those decisions now.
13
                 THE COURT:
                             Right.
14
                 MR. CORNELIUS: But, anyway, I want the
15
   record to be complete so that we won't have to explain
16
   any more later to somebody else.
                 THE COURT: Right. Okay. And I would sua
17
   sponte grant this as well. The motion is granted by the
18
19
   State, but I totally agree.
20
                 So, bring the juror back in.
21
                 (Venireperson enters courtroom)
22
                 THE COURT: Ms. Rivera Lopez, you don't
23
   need to take the stand. We're going to excuse you as a
24
   juror in this case.
25
                 VENIREPERSON:
                                Okay.
```

```
1
                 THE COURT: And we really appreciate all
2
   the time you spent, three days now coming down here; a
   lot of time and energy. We could not do this without
3
   involved concerned citizens like yourself. So, we
4
   greatly thank you.
5
6
                 We put you under some admonishments.
   You're released from all of those admonishments at this
7
8
   time. So, you can speak with whomever you want about
   your experience here in this case. And if you need
   something for work today, Deputy Perry can get you the
10
11
   excuse. It's good through 5:00 today.
12
                 VENIREPERSON: All right. Thank you.
13
                 THE COURT: Good luck to you, ma'am.
14
                 VENIREPERSON:
                                Thanks.
15
                 THE COURT: We have 64 and 72. We'll start
   with 64. Does anybody need a break?
16
17
                 MS. TISE: Ten minutes?
18
                 THE COURT: You can take a break, Ms. Tise,
19
   if you need to once we get started. Mr. Wood is going
20
   to be handling it, correct?
21
                 MR. WOOD: Oh, yeah. Sure.
22
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I'll go to the restroom.
23
                 THE COURT: Mr. Wood, are you okay?
24
                 MR. WOOD: No. I'm fine.
25
                 (Venireperson sworn)
```

NANCEE PYPER, VENIREPERSON NO. 64, 1 2 was called as a prospective juror, and testified as follows: 3 4 VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION BY THE COURT: 5 Okay. Ms. Pyper, your name is Nancee Pyper? 6 Ο. 7 Α. Yes. And you are Juror No. 64 in the venire that was 8 Ο. brought before this Court on the State of Texas vs. Obel 9 Cruz-Garcia. Correct? 10 11 Α. Yes. 12 This is a continuation of the voir dire 13 process. And one lawyer from each side will have an opportunity to speak with you. I'm going to hold them 14 15 to 30 minutes aside. Thank you for coming in early. 16 Uh-huh. Α. 17 And we'll try to get you out of here early. 18 Α. Awesome. So, they will be asking questions over the same 19 Q. 20 material that I talked about, but more specific to you. 21 Α. Okay. 22 And even though you are under oath to speak 23 truthfully, there's really no right or wrong answers to 24 this. They want you to tell your feelings truthfully. 25 Okay. Α.

```
1
        Ο.
             And if you have any questions about what their
2
   questions are, please ask them to rephrase. I have
   three questions myself before we get going.
3
 4
                 Do you have any religious, personal, or
   moral reasons you would be unable to sit on a jury where
5
   the death penalty is a possible punishment?
6
7
        Α.
             No.
             Do you know of any reason why you could not be
8
        Ο.
9
   fair and impartial to both sides in a criminal case?
10
        Α.
             No.
11
             Have any of your answers from the questionnaire
        0.
12
   changed?
13
        Α.
             No.
             We all have a copy of your questionnaire, so
14
        Q.
15
   let us know if at some point you need that. They are
   going to ask you some questions over that probably.
16
17
                 THE COURT: I'll turn you over to Mr. Wood.
18
   It is 12:20.
19
                             Thank you, Your Honor.
                 MR. WOOD:
20
                      VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
21
   BY MR. WOOD:
22
             Good afternoon, Ms. Pyper.
        Ο.
23
             Hi.
        Α.
24
        Q.
             Welcome back.
25
        Α.
             Thank you.
```

- Q. How are you doing today?
- A. Good.

- 3 Q. Well, like the Judge said, my name is Justin
- 4 | Wood. Natalie Tise has stepped out just for a second.
- 5 | She'll be right back. Together we'll be trying the case
- 6 | if you are chosen to be one of the jurors on the case.
- 7 A. Okay.
- 8 Q. This is Steve Walsh here in the back. He is a
- 9 | law student, an intern of ours, and he'll be helping us
- 10 out throughout the trial.
- 11 A. Okay.
- 12 Q. Just like the Judge said, this is our chance to
- 13 get to know you a little bit better. We have a little
- 14 | better insight after this nice questionnaire, but there
- 15 | will be some questions I ask you specifically from that
- 16 and then some of the things we talked about in
- 17 | general -- or you talked about in general with the Judge
- 18 on Monday.
- 19 A. Okay.
- 20 Q. This jury selection process, I see you have not
- 21 | been down here -- you haven't been on a jury before.
- 22 A. Been on a panel similar to this, but never on
- 23 an actual jury.
- 24 Q. Okay. Cool. So, you've kind of had a hint at
- 25 | this process. You can see now that this process for a

```
death penalty capital murder is very involved.
1
2
        Α.
            Yes.
            And rightfully so. It's a serious case.
3
        Ο.
   this opportunity for us to be able to visit and talk
4
   one-on-one is a good chance to get to know you. We want
5
   to be able to pick -- the defense team and us, we want
6
7
   to pick the best 12 and fairest, most impartial jurors
   in the case.
8
9
                 So, a couple of things up front I wanted to
10
   ask you about. You are a behavior consultant at Cy-Fair
11
   ISD.
12
        Α.
            Yes.
            What exactly is that?
13
        Q.
            I deal with students who are either on a
14
15
   behavior plan for misconduct, persistent misconduct.
16
   I'm a liaison for the school district, for the schools.
   Cy-Fair is a very large district. There are five of us
17
18
   that do this. I have 17 elementary schools that I
   serve. And as a request comes in, then I am called out
19
20
   to observe either the teacher or the student and give
   support and feedback.
21
22
            Okay. And prior to that, you were in a
        Ο.
23
   classroom?
24
            I was in a classroom for four years. I was a
```

specialized teacher in like alternative behavior for

```
third, fourth, and fifth grade students.
1
        Q. Well, God bless you. That's one job I could
2
   not do, I can tell you.
3
                 And you like reality TV.
 4
            Uh-huh.
5
        Α.
            That's one thing we probably have in common.
6
7
   What's your favorite?
            Right now my son has gotten me hooked on the
8
        Α.
   new baking one that's going on.
            Well, I'm reality TV junkie, I will admit. I
10
11
   shy away from any law shows or anything like that.
12
   Mindless TV works best. You've got four kids --
13
        Α.
           Yes.
14
        Q.
          -- that are currently 18 to 24?
15
            Yes.
        Α.
16
            That's a lot of teenagers at one time.
        Q.
            It was. Yes. My youngest graduates tomorrow
17
        Α.
18
   from high school, so...
19
            I was going to ask that. I saw that. So,
20
   we're not going to interfere with graduation or
21
   anything?
22
        A.
            No.
23
        Q. Well, congratulations on getting all of that
24
   done.
25
                 The Judge spoke to you a little bit about
```

```
the case and what kind of case it is and gave a little
1
   bit of distinction between capital murder and murder.
2
   Did that make sense to you? Was that new to you?
3
        Α.
            It wasn't new to me. It was a learning
4
                It was informative to realize the
5
   difference and what was involved to make it one or the
6
7
   other.
8
            Right. And you recall that there is murder and
        Ο.
   then there are -- there is murder plus something, is
9
10
   what I -- how I refer to it to get to capital murder.
11
        Α.
            Correct.
12
        Q.
            And if I was to put you in charge of -- you
13
   were governor of the day for Texas. You don't have to
   agree with your husband or your four kids or anybody
14
15
   else. And I was to ask you: Would you have capital
   punishment, would you have the death penalty as a
16
   possible punishment if you were in charge?
17
18
            I believe I would.
        Α.
19
            Okay. And Judge went over some of those
        Q.
20
   special cases that rise to the level of capital murder
21
   in Texas, whether it be killing a police officer in the
22
   line of duty, killing a child younger than ten, two or
23
   more people in the same transaction, someone committing
```

24 a murder in the commission -- during the commission of a 25 serious felony, like burglary or sexual assault,

- 1 robbery, kidnapping, those types.
- 2 A. Right.

- Q. Are those the types of offenses you think are appropriate for the death penalty or did you have something else in mind?
 - A. No. I think those are appropriate.
- Q. As far as your family goes, maybe your husband -- I don't know how often the issue of the death penalty or capital punishment comes up in family discussions, but do you think that's an idea you share with your husband or are there people in your family that have different opinions on that?
- A. On the death penalty itself? I think case-by-case. I think we pretty much agree, depending on the facts of the case that it is an option.
- Q. Right.
 - A. And an appropriate option in some cases.
- Q. Well, if we think about it -- we can think about it and talk about it in a vacuum what our philosophy is on it, and that's fine, and many people do. But it's a little different when you are going through the process and you are sitting where you are now. You have been down here now three different days. You are very close to being seated on a jury that would consider the death penalty. Sit in that box, hear the

evidence, and make that decision.

A. Right.

- Q. As you sit here today, you know this is Obel Cruz-Garcia, the gentleman over here in the headphones. As you sit here, I want you to look at him and I want you to be able to tell me that if the evidence leads you in the direction, if the evidence shows to you that you have to answer those questions in the punishment phase of the trial after you've found him guilty, that leads you in a direction that would answer those questions, which we'll go over, a "yes," "yes," and a "no," that you know would eventually lead to his execution, would
 - A. Following those procedures, yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. I appreciate that.

be able to do that?

A little bit about the trial process. As the Judge explained to you, the trial is -- a trial in Texas is in two parts. It's a little different than some states, but in Texas there is the guilt-innocence phase, and in Texas, which is rare from some states, the jury can have the option of assessing the punishment as well. And in the guilt-innocence phase, there is certain types of evidence that you are going to hear that may be different than the punishment phase.

A. Okay.

Q. For guilt, you are going to hear evidence focused in on the offense. We can't talk about things -- generally we can't talk about things outside of that. We've got to focus our evidence in on just the facts of case. And you heard the Judge explain to you the burden and -- the burden of proof. That lies with Natalie and I throughout the entire trial. We have to prove the case to you beyond a reasonable doubt. And, in fact, we have to prove the elements of capital murder to you. And they are also on that small screen, too.

A. Okay.

Q. Those are the elements of capital murder that Judge read to you from that indictment on Monday. We have to prove each and every one of those items to you beyond a reasonable doubt. And while we carry that burden, those are the only elements or the only things about the case that have to be proven to you beyond a reasonable doubt. Naturally, you are going to hear -- you could hear more than just what relates to those elements, obviously; but you will notice on there that you can see there's the when, the where, the who, the what. You know, that is all addressed. But the why is not up there. Someone's motive behind doing something is not something we have to prove.

A. Okay.

- Q. While human instinct is we want to know that,
 just curiosity tells you, as many children you have
 dealt with, school children and your own, you probably
 get to the bottom of that question more times than not.
 But as a juror that is not one thing that we have to
 - A. Right.

necessarily prove to you.

- Q. You may learn that and that is great, but it's not something that you necessarily will. Is there anything about that that bothers you or are you okay with that?
- A. I'm a little bit confused on the part where it's committing and attempting to commit kidnapping. Is that different as far as an actual kidnapping if it were to have happened? Is that something that I'd have to consider?
- Q. Well, you would be given instructions on what the law on kidnapping is.
- A. Okay.
 - Q. And just -- it could be proven that -- the elements of kidnapping could be met and you've got to believe that that is what -- that we met our burden on that element. But without going into -- you know, at this point, I can't go into specific facts.
- 25 A. Right.

```
You would have to believe that that element of
1
        Ο.
2
   the offense was proven to you beyond a reasonable doubt.
3
        Α.
             Okay.
             There could be any number of facts that relate
4
        Q.
   to that.
5
6
        Α.
             Okay.
             Is that --
7
        Q.
             Uh-huh.
8
        Α.
9
             -- okay?
        Q.
                 Naturally, you are going to hear --
10
11
   potentially hear all different types of evidence, but is
   there certain evidence that you think you would expect
12
   to hear in a criminal case or specifically a capital
13
   murder case that would come before you as a jury? Just
14
15
   in general, not --
16
             Just in general?
        Α.
17
        Ο.
             Yeah.
18
             Just the background that led up to the charges.
        Α.
             Okay. And do you think that might sometimes
19
        Q.
20
   come through witnesses?
21
        Α.
             Yes.
             Many times people think of, you know, photos
22
23
   and murder weapons, and, you know, maybe DNA, or those
24
   types of physical or forensic evidence as types of
25
   evidence. And many times people don't think of
```

witnesses and witness testimony as evidence, but the law says that's testimony that -- that's evidence that you are to consider as well. And naturally so. It would be strange to have a trial with no witnesses that you could consider as evidence. So, that's going to be evidence that you are told that you can consider is witness testimony.

A. Okay.

- Q. And with witnesses -- and the Judge went over this on Monday -- you, as a jury, your main job is going to be judging the credibility of those witnesses.

 That's going to be one of your primary duties. And the Judge explained to you that all witnesses, before they testify, start out on an equal playing field.
 - A. Right.
- You can't give one witness more credibility than the other just because of something you might know about them. For example, that they are a police officer or a priest or a prostitute or whatever it might be. The instruction is for you to listen to the evidence and the testimony and until you've heard that testimony, only at that point can you start weighing their credibility. You probably have lots of experience in that. Is that a concept that you are okay with?
 - A. Yes.

Okay. I know that we talked about in a Q. criminal case you can expect some of those witnesses might be law enforcement, police officers and such. a criminal trial or in trials that we have almost every time, even though I gave the statement every time, police officers write reports and do offense reports and police reports, and you are going to hear reference to those, obviously; but at the end of the day, those types of things like reports, witness statement, written or recorded, those are not evidence typically that the jury gets to go back and look over and consider. The law says that a witness has to come into the courtroom and speak from their own mouth and you get to judge their credibility rather than you just reading a report. just so you know that. If somebody goes back there and says: Let's ask for that police report, you can remind them that's not evidence.

A. Okay.

1

2

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19

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23

24

25

Q. In the punishment phase of the trial -obviously, the punishment phase of the trial comes once
you have come to a decision as 12 jurors on the guilt
phase. You know, if you have decided beyond a
reasonable doubt that we have met our burden on all of
those elements, then and only then do you move on to the
punishment phase of the trial. And in the punishment

phase, there can be new evidence presented to you, obviously. Presented to you from the State you might -- or from the defense. Again, the defense does not have to, but you might get to learn about things about the defendant's background, whether that be good or bad, at the punishment phase. And different from other cases, a death penalty capital murder case, if you are sitting on that jury, the Judge explained to you, which is usually more comforting to jurors to know, you aren't just left to go back there and say: We're assessing the death penalty or we're not.

A. Right.

- Q. You know, there is a framework. Those questions are laid out for you, those special issues. And we'll talk about those. There are three of those that you have to answer.
 - A. Right.
- Q. And there is a couple of things about that I want to visit with you about up front. The rule is you can't -- you have to take each one of those questions individually and evaluate the evidence and the testimony that you had and you heard that relate to those and look at those individually. And if you answered that first question as a jury with the answer "yes," then you move on to the second question. If you answer "no," then it

```
stops there. Because in Texas, there is two different
1
2
   punishments for capital murder, the death penalty, and
   if the death penalty is not assessed or not sought by
3
   the State, then it's a life sentence. And the current
4
   law is that it's life without parole. However, that
5
   only came on board in 2005. So, before that, it was
6
7
   life with parole elgi -- with parole, but after
   eligibility comes from serving a certain number of years
8
   in prison.
9
10
        Α.
            Okay.
            And because this offense is alleged to have
11
12
   occurred in 1992, we have to take the laws as they were
   back in '92. Does that make sense?
13
14
        Α.
            Yes.
15
            So, we're talking about the death penalty or
        Ο.
   life in prison with parole eligibility after serving 35
16
17
   years in this case. So, as a jury, if you are answering
   those special issues and you answer "no" to the first
18
   special issue, then it's a life sentence.
19
20
        Α.
            Okay.
21
            But if you answer "yes," you move on to the
        Q.
22
   second and so forth.
23
                 So, my question to you, Ms. Pyper is that
24
   you -- hypothetically say you -- not talking about this
25
   case, but you are sitting on a jury --
```

- A. Uh-huh.
- Q. -- and you have found the defendant guilty, you
- 3 are moving on to that second phase, the punishment
- 4 | phase, you've heard evidence or new evidence or
- 5 | testimony on different issues and it's now your -- now
- 6 it's time to make those decisions on the special issues.
- 7 | Will you commit to me, Ms. Pyper, that you aren't going
- 8 to automatically answer "yes" or "no" to any of those
- 9 questions just because you have found the defendant
- 10 | guilty?

- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Will you agree with me that you will evaluate
- 13 | the evidence and the testimony that's before you in
- 14 determining your answer to those questions?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Okay. Specifically I want to talk to you about
- 17 | Special Issue No. 1. And this is what we call the
- 18 continuing threat issue. And as a jury, you are going
- 19 to have to answer and find beyond a reasonable doubt
- 20 whether we've met our burden on this issue. And it's
- 21 essentially finding whether or not there is a
- 22 probability that this person will commit future acts of
- 23 violence. And a couple of things about this special
- 24 | issue that I want to visit about is that word
- 25 | "probability." There's got to be a probability that

1 that will happen. 2 Now, you will agree with me, won't you, that does not necessarily mean certainty, it's not an 3 absolute certainty. 4 5 Α. Right. But more than just a possibility. There's got 6 7 to be a probablity, maybe more likely than not, whatever your definition of it is, that future acts or other acts 8 of criminal violence would be committed in the future. In talking about criminal acts of violence, now the 10 Judge explained it to you, but I want to visit with you 11 12 about that. There isn't a requirement that we show 13 necessarily that another murder or capital murder would be committed. That's not what that says. It just says: 14 15 Other criminal acts of violence. So, other criminal acts of violence. So, that can be committed against 16 another person, maybe against someone's property, maybe 17 it's verbal threats, whatever in your mind that you 18 might consider criminal acts of violence. 19 20 What kind of things do you think would show 21 someone's propensity to commit criminal acts of violence 22 for you? 23 Probably a continuation of some other things

A. Probably a continuation of some other things you said. Verbal threats, hurting or insulting in a threatening manner other people.

24

```
1
        O.
             Okay. Maybe -- so, maybe looking at someone's
2
   background?
            Uh-huh.
3
        Α.
             What they've done since or before or whatever?
 4
        0.
                     The background, what's happened since
5
        Α.
   that supposed date.
6
7
             So, maybe other -- it might -- it might rise to
        Q.
   the level of other offenses, but it don't necessarily
8
   have to be prior convictions or anything like that.
   Would you agree with me?
10
11
        Α.
             Correct.
12
        Ο.
            All right. How about the concept of the
13
   fact -- looking at the offense alone, looking at the
   actual acts committed in the offense. The law says that
14
15
   you can consider that, too, in considering whether
   someone has a probability of committing future acts of
16
17
   violence. And would you agree with me there are some
   offenses that standing alone might show someone's
18
   propensity to commit future violence?
19
20
        Α.
             Sure.
21
             Are you familiar with the Candy Man murder?
        Q.
22
        Α.
            No.
23
             That situation was where an individual, a
        Q.
```

father actually poisoned his own son, his own son's

Halloween candy. Poisoned like a pixie stick,

24

```
1
   essentially.
2
        Α.
             Okay.
             And killed his own son for insurance money.
3
        Ο.
   Although, it seems unfathomable, that happened.
4
   Texas that could be considered capital murder.
5
   would you agree with me that there are some -- there are
6
7
   some offenses, maybe like that hypothetically for
8
   example, that standing alone might show someone's
   propensity to commit future acts of violence?
10
        Α.
             Yes.
11
             Okay. And then finally on Special Issue No. 1,
        0.
12
             That would constitute a continuing threat to
   it says:
13
   society. And would you agree with me, Ms. Pyper, that
   society can mean many different things?
14
15
             Oh, yes.
        Α.
16
             It can mean the streets that we walk around in
17
   in Houston. It can mean society within prison, whether
18
   that be guards, other employees, fellow inmates in
19
   prison.
20
        Α.
             Yes.
21
             Okay. So, as a jury, if you hear evidence that
        Q.
22
   leads you in a direction to answer that question with a
23
   "yes," then you would move on to the second question.
```

24 And the Judge spoke to you a little bit on Monday about 25 the issue -- or the concept of law of parties and

```
1 accomplices. And in many ways, this question is very
2 similar to that.
```

A. Uh-huh.

3

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- But just like with that first question, you 4 Ο. have to take this second question independently. You 5 can't just automatically answer "yes" to this question. 6 7 You have to evaluate this question independently. And, 8 again, it has that same burden of proof, beyond a reasonable doubt. And you, as a jury, have to decide first if you believe that the defendant actually caused 10 11 the death of the deceased in the case. But then based 12 on some of those ideas of law of parties and 13 accomplices, you heard the Judge tell you it doesn't necessarily have to be them actually causing the death. 14 15 They could have intended the death of the deceased.
 - A. Right.
 - Q. Or possibly even another person. Or anticipated that a human life would be taken under the circumstances. Are those concepts that you are comfortable with?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And a little bit going back on that -actually, let me continue with that and I'll go back to
 this in a minute. But after you come to a determination
 on that question and you, as a jury, evaluated the

evidence and the evidence leads you in a direction to answer that question with a "yes," then you move on to the third question.

A. Correct.

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22

- Now, if you think about where you are at in the process, you, as a jury, beyond a reasonable doubt have found the defendant guilty, you have answered that first question with a "yes," we believe there is a probability he would be a continuing threat, you have answered that second question with a "yes," that he either actually caused the death, he intended to, or should have anticipated it. So, you are one question away from essentially sentencing the defendant to the death penalty that would lead to his execution. So, the third question is an independent question as well. You've got to step back. It basically has you evaluate all of the evidence -- and we'll talk about that -- and determine if there is some sufficient mitigating circumstances or circumstance that would warrant something less than the death penalty. And in this case, we know we're talking a life sentence with parole eligibility after 35 years.
 - A. Uh-huh.
 - Q. You follow me?
- 24 A. Uh-huh.
- Q. One difference is there is no burden of proof.

```
There isn't that beyond a reasonable doubt standard.
1
   But the question itself kind of tells you where to look
2
   to help answer this question. The question tells you
3
   that you are to evaluate -- as a jury, you are to
4
   evaluate all of the evidence. That can be the
5
   circumstances of the actual offense, that can be
6
7
   something you might have learned about the defendant's
   background or character. You know, like we talked about
8
   in the punishment phase, you might learn some of that.
10
   It might be what was his moral culpability in all of
11
   this, how involved was he, what role did he play in all
12
   of this?
13
                 And in evaluating all of that, you have to
   decide if there is some kind of sufficient mitigating
14
15
   circumstance or circumstances that would warrant a life
   sentence rather than the death penalty. And you would
16
   agree with me, wouldn't you, Ms. Pyper, there are a lot
17
   of things that could be considered mitigating
18
   circumstances?
19
20
        Α.
            Sure.
21
            You probably have a lot of insight into this,
        Q.
22
   in dealing with some of the difficult situations that
23
   you deal with in the schools. Sadly, you probably deal
24
   with a lot of troubled kids, right?
25
            Uh-huh.
        Α.
```

- Q. That come from some pretty horrible backgrounds.
 - A. Yes.

4

5

6

7

8

- Q. You know, many things could be considered a mitigating circumstance. It could be something as extreme as, you know, mental illness. That might play a part, right?
- A. Yes.
- 9 Q. You are probably familiar -- do you remember 10 the Andrea Yates case --
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. -- where she drowned her five kids. Tragic 13 situation. Clearly, she committed those acts.
 - A. Right.
- She admitted to it, but through her trials, 15 Ο. trial of trials, it came out and was evident, her mental 16 17 illness. So, that might be a mitigating circumstance 18 that a jury considers. But a skilled lawyer can say pretty much anything is a mitigating circumstance. You 19 20 know, I mean, you can look at this in a real-world 21 example. A history of drug abuse might be considered a 22 mitigating circumstance, but, on the other hand, someone 23 that's been clean and sober and not used any drugs could 24 also be argued -- arguably a mitigating circumstance.
- 25 A. Right.

```
Or a tight family unit that's in place could be
1
        Ο.
2
   a mitigating circumstance.
             Correct.
3
        Α.
             Or a broken background, right?
 4
             Uh-huh.
 5
        Α.
             Like I was saying before, you deal with kids
6
7
   that have been in some really awful circumstances --
8
        Α.
             Yes.
9
             -- in the line of work that you do. But not
        Q.
10
   every child who has come from a broken home or grows up
11
   with an addiction to drug abuse is going to go out and
12
   commit capital murder, are they?
13
        Α.
             No.
             So, as a jury, that word "sufficient" has to be
14
        0.
15
   taken into consideration because it has to be sufficient
16
   in light of all of those things we've talked about -- in
17
   light of the offense, in light of all of the evidence --
18
   in order for you to say a life sentence is more
19
   appropriate than the death sentence.
20
                 THE COURT: Five minutes, Mr. Wood.
21
                 MR. WOOD:
                             Thank you, Your Honor.
22
             (By Mr. Wood) Is that process something that
        Ο.
23
   you think you would be okay with?
24
        Α.
             Uh-huh.
```

While difficult, that you could do?

25

Ο.

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Going back to that Special Issue No. 1.
- 3 You know, that's probably one of the biggest
- 4 | considerations you would have as a juror once you found
- 5 | a person quilty. And some defense attorneys would say
- 6 that you have just found someone guilty of capital
- 7 | murder, can you ever envision any circumstance or
- 8 circumstances where you personally, Ms. Pyper, would say
- 9 that that person is not a continuing threat to society.
- 10 A. Probably not.
- 11 Q. Well, that's a difficult thing, especially in a
- 12 vacuum when you don't know anything.
- 13 A. Right.
- 14 Q. Are you familiar with the story of "A Time to
- 15 | Kill"?
- 16 A. No. I have heard of it, but...
- 17 O. First a book and then a movie.
- 18 A. Uh-huh.
- 19 Q. And the circumstances around that case which we
- 20 | have to look at as -- you know, I'm just throwing that
- 21 out there as a possible hypothetical case. But that
- 22 | situation -- or in that story, two gentlemen went on
- 23 trial for raping a man's daughter. And there was a lot
- 24 of other stuff going on, but in the course of that, the
- 25 | rape victim's father laid in wait outside of the

```
1
   courtroom and guns down and kills the two rapists.
   Clearly, in Texas that would be capital murder. Right?
2
   Killing two individuals in the course of, you know, the
3
   same transaction, basically.
4
                 Now, take in this hypothetical situation
 5
   that this is not a person with a history of criminal
6
7
   activity, this is a father.
8
            Right.
        Α.
            In Texas, that would be capital murder.
9
        Q.
10
   we can say whether or not we'd seek the death penalty or
11
   not, but in a hypothetical situation the State could
12
   seek the death penalty in that case.
            Uh-huh.
13
        Α.
            Is that a situation --
14
        Q.
15
                 MR. CORNELIUS: That calls for a
16
   commitment.
17
                 THE COURT: Yes, I agree. Don't ask for a
18
   commitment on that. You can use that as a hypothetical,
19
   but do not ask a commitment question.
20
        Q. (By Mr. Wood) Considering that hypothetical, or
   any other set of circumstances, any other set of facts
21
22
   in your mind that you can consider, can you think of a
23
   situation where you might not automatically -- where you
24
   would not automatically say "yes" to this question just
```

because someone is guilty of capital murder?

```
A. It would probably depend on the case, but probably.
```

- Q. Yes. And that's a -- right now where you sit, that's all we can say is that I would have to ask that you evaluate the evidence --
- A. The evidence.
- Q. -- and the circumstances and the facts and evidence that you hear as a jury. But can you keep an open mind to that where you sit now, that you would be open to that possibility?
- 11 A. Yes.

4

5

6

7

8

9

- Q. And that you would only answer that question after you have evaluated the evidence and the facts before you --
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. -- in that particular case?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 And they kind of come -- they kind of are very Q. closely related, but the same thing on the mitigation 19 20 issue, that third special issue question that you would be asked to answer. Again, will you commit to me that 21 22 you would not automatically answer that question "no" 23 just because you found somebody quilty of capital 24 murder, just because you have found there's a probablity 25 they will be a continuing threat, that you won't

```
automatically answer that question "no," but that you
1
2
   will evaluate the evidence?
3
        Α.
            Yes.
            Ms. Pyper, I'm just about done. This is the
 4
   last shot that I have for you to tell me if there is
5
   anything that you want to share or there's anything I
6
7
   have not asked that you think I should have asked.
8
        Α.
            No.
            Okay. Well, I sure appreciate your answers and
9
        Q.
10
   your time.
11
        Α.
            Thank you.
12
                 MR. WOOD: I pass the juror.
                 THE COURT: Mr. Cornelius.
13
14
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, Your Honor.
15
                 THE COURT: You may proceed.
16
                     VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
17
   BY MR. CORNELIUS:
            Ms. Pyper, I'm Skip Cornelius. And we're going
18
   to get to ask you some questions now. I hope it doesn't
19
20
   take 30 minutes. Mario Madrid is across the table as
21
   co-counsel. And Obel Cruz-Garcia is on my right. Why
22
   don't you sit back and tell me about the life and times
23
   of Nancee Pyper.
24
            I have been a schoolteacher for 21 years. Part
   of that time, I worked with difficult children. For
25
```

```
four years, I had third, fourth, and fifth graders from
1
   the Cy-Fair district that had either committed a code of
2
   conduct violation or persistent misbehaviors.
3
   would be the reason they would come into my classroom.
4
   And I had them the entire school day building social
5
   skills and helping them see a reason to be successful
6
   back in a regular classroom.
7
8
        Ο.
             Do you like doing that?
9
        Α.
             I do.
             Do you get some success out of it?
10
        Ο.
11
             Hope so. I feel that we do.
        Α.
12
             Do the kids sometimes get turned around?
        Q.
             Sometimes. A lot of times it depends on the
13
        Α.
   home front, which is, you know, the -- I can only do
14
15
   what I can during my eight-hour day.
16
             Go back to Montana. How long did you live in
        Ο.
   Montana?
17
18
             Less than six months.
        Α.
19
        Q.
             Okay.
20
        Α.
            No memory of it other than birthplace.
21
        Q.
             And so, where did you live?
22
             Pretty much in the Houston area most of my
```

Q. Okay. All right. Your family, what -- I know you were asked this question before, but anybody in your

23

24

25

life.

```
family -- or let's not even limit it to family. Close
1
2
   friends or relatives. Has some pronounced feeling about
   capital punishment for or against?
3
        Α.
            Not one way or the other, no.
 4
            Nothing happened in your life that would maybe
5
        Q.
   have an impact on you as to whether you'd be for it or
6
7
   against it?
8
        Α.
            No.
            You ever -- when is the last time you recall
9
        Q.
10
   ever having a conversation with anybody about capital
11
   punishment?
12
             Well, of course, talking to my husband about
        Α.
   the possibility of this jury.
13
14
             Before that.
        Q.
15
            Before that? Don't really have a recollection.
16
   I know the last time I was on a panel similar to this
   was around the Andrea Yates time.
17
            Was it the Andrea Yates panel or a different
18
        Q.
19
   one?
20
        Α.
             I was actually in the jury room that same day.
21
   They supposedly picked the last grouping from a panel
22
   similar to this that morning. I was here in the
23
   afternoon. So, that was obviously --
24
        Q. Pretty close?
```

A. -- pretty close.

- 1 Ο. Okay. Anything off the top that you can think of that maybe I ought to know in deciding whether to agree to put you on the jury?
 - Not that I can think of. Α.
 - I'm going to shift gears a little bit. Q.
 - Okay. Α.

3

4

5

6

- 7 In a normal jury selection, we have a panel and Q. 8 they sit out there and we talk to them at the same time, maybe we have a few individual questions to some of them 9 for some reason, but because this is a capital case we 10 11 talk to you individually, because people's views on 12 capital punishment are pretty adverse and it's pretty 13 important in a case like this. Here's my fear on that. We bring you in here -- first of all, we bombard you 14 15 with questions about capital punishment, we bring you in here and bombard you all about capital punishment, even 16 17 the defense side does. And my client is going to plead not guilty. And we're going to defend him to the best 18 19 of our ability and try to convince a jury not to convict 20 him. Do you understand that?
- 21 Α. Yes.
 - You think I ought to do that if I'm his lawyer? Ο.
- 23 If you are his lawyer, yeah. That's what you
- 24 are here for.

22

25 Q. Do you have any problem with that? A. No.

- Q. I mean, we see really unusual answers on these questionnaires. Not yours, but on questionnaires. Some people really don't think everybody deserves to have a lawyer. And so, I'd like to have an understanding with you that I have to do my duty and you expect me to do my duty.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. How would you feel, hypothetically, if you were on the jury and you go back to deliberate on the case and you realized that the State has a pretty good case, but maybe a really good case, maybe you really think the defendant is guilty in that case, but the defense didn't do anything, they were terrible, they didn't ask questions on cross-examination, they didn't call any witnesses, they really didn't do anything to defend their client? That wouldn't feel very good, would it?

 A. No.
- Q. And if you convicted that guy knowing he really didn't get a fair trial, how would that make you feel?
- A. I would probably put it more on the defense than on the way the trial went.
- Q. Well, wouldn't it feel better if both sides -you knew both sides were doing their very best to
 represent their side?

A. Sure.

- Q. Their best to represent the State, we're doing our best to be a defensive team.
 - A. Uh-huh.
 - Q. And then you'd fairly evaluate the evidence, and whatever you decide you decide, but that is the way it's supposed to work. Do you agree with that?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. Well, we're going to do that. I tell you that because I want to understand and I want to feel like that you expect me to do my job. And also I want you to understand that if I talk to you about capital punishment, it's not because I expect to lose. It's just that we don't have two juries. We don't have a jury on guilt or innocence and then if there is a conviction we pick another jury to set the punishment.
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. So, if we have questions of jurors about punishment, we have to ask them now. Before we get into that, though, you know that this allegation is one that alleges that the crime occurred in 1992. Now, I would be afraid that a jury might give the State come extra credit because it's probably pretty hard or at least harder to try a 1992 case than, let's say, a 2012 case. Maybe not. There may be a better 1992 than 2012, but

```
just in averages -- and we can't talk about this case at
1
2
   all. You can see there could be problems with
   presenting a 1992 case?
3
            Possibly, but I would expect the same as if it
4
        Α.
   happened yesterday and was in trial.
5
            You anticipated my question. I don't want you
6
7
   to -- well, I hope that you wouldn't give the State some
   extra credit or extra benefit or reduce their burden a
8
   little bit because it's a 1992 case.
10
        Α.
            No.
11
            Okay. There is a scale on our form here.
        0.
12
   Actually, it's two scales.
                 MR. CORNELIUS: And, Judge, can she look at
13
14
   your page?
15
                 THE COURT: Which page? Page 11? No. 70?
16
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Page 9.
17
                 THE COURT: I will turn to Page 9. The
18
   only thing I have written on here is the times that we
   started.
19
20
        Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) We have these two scales on
21
   there. Do you remember them? I'm not going to ask you
22
   to tell me what they are, but do you remember reading
23
   that?
24
       A. Yes.
25
        Q. There are two scales. The first one is asking
```

- about your general views -- you see it up there at the top -- general views about capital punishment?
 - A. Yes.

4

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- Q. And the first answer is: I'm opposed to capital punishment in all cases, and it says some other things. And the fifth is: I'm strongly in favor of capital punishment as an appropriate penalty. And you picked number five.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And I don't have a problem with that,

 but unless you are telling me that you are strongly in

 favor of capital punishment in all cases.
- A. That's not what's written here. That's not how If I read it.
 - Q. All right. Because the second scale doesn't exactly address that, but it comes a lot closer. It says -- it's talking about determining the punishment and asking you which one of the examples fits and you picked number three.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Which is basically it depends on the facts.

 You are not -- it's not that you can do it, it's not

 that you would always do it. It's not that you would

 seldom do it or usually do it. You just don't know if

 you would do it or not till you hear the facts.

```
1 A. Exactly.
```

- Q. Is that the truth?
- A. Yes.

3

8

9

- Q. Okay. You also made a comment on there -- and just take my word for it. You just checked the box that says our laws are too lenient.
- 7 A. At times, yes.
 - Q. At times. Okay. Are they ever too harsh?

 Ever heard of a case where somebody got more punishment than you thought they should have?
- 11 A. I can't think of one.
- 12 Q. Okay. Before she gives that back, I want her 13 to turn to page --
- THE COURT: Absolutely. Just keep it until he is finished with his questions.
- Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) Page 11, Question No. 70. I did not write this questionnaire. I've not contributed a word to the questionnaire. I'm not criticizing the questionnaire, but I am -- Question No. 70 is kind of difficult. Do you remember going through that series of questions?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Well, the most important one is down here where
 it says F, number F, it says: A sentence of life in
 prison may or may not be the right decision, it depends

on the facts of the case. And that's what you checked. 1 2 Α. Yes. You agreed with that --3 Ο. Α. Yes. 4 5 -- correct? Q. Okay. Now, A and B are the same questions, 6 7 just inverted. And D and E are the same questions, just 8 inverted. I don't know why we need to do that, but we have for some reason. And you said that life 10 imprisonment is not enough. And I assume you mean in 11 every case. There may be some cases where life is not 12 enough, might mean the death penalty. 13 A. Correct. Okay. What I want to hone in on a moment is 14 0. 15 this business about whether it's wasteful -- D, go to D -- whether it's wasteful to support people in prison 16 because that sort of implies that it might be just more 17 logical to give them the death penalty because it costs 18 19 to much to support them in prison. And that's kind of 20 what you -- by agreeing with that, that's kind of what 21 you're saying, at least -- let me hear what you're 22 saying.

A. Now that I understand the punishment phase and the choices of how it is determined, life in prison versus the death penalty, I understand a little bit

23

24

```
more. However, I do feel that from my previous
1
   knowledge of life in prison that sometimes, you know, it
2
   is -- I feel sometimes it is wasteful of taxpayers
3
   money.
4
             Okay. As opposed to giving the death penalty?
 5
        Q.
             If it were an option, yes.
6
7
            Now, making that empirical calculation as to
        Q.
   cost, what information would you have that would let you
8
   know whether it would cost more to actually prosecute
9
   somebody for the death penalty and carry that all the
10
11
   way out through the appellate processes and have to
12
   support them all that time -- because you know it takes
13
   a long time before somebody actually gets executed.
14
        Α.
             True.
15
            And have to support them all of that time in
        Ο.
   prison, because it would only after they got executed
16
17
   that it would cost any more money, a dollar more, to
18
   continue to support them in prison. You follow me?
19
             Yes.
        Α.
20
        Q.
             What are you basing the fact that you think
21
   it's more expensive to keep them in prison for however
22
   long they would live versus --
23
             Hearsay.
        Α.
24
        Q.
             Okay. All right. Can you see kind of where
```

I'm going with that question?

A. Uh-huh.

1

2

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- Q. I mean, I can't give you any of the facts or statistics or stuff.
 - A. Right.
- Q. But I can tell you that there are people that would tell you that it's more expensive to actually execute somebody than to carry them in prison or provide them their food and prison or whatever.
- A. Correct.
- Q. Did you know that if they are actually given the death sentence, they go to death row, they don't work, there is no work for the prisoners --
- MR. WOOD: Objection, Your Honor. This is improper.
- MR. CORNELIUS: Well, if she knows.
- 16 THE COURT: Sustained.
 - Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) Do you have any -- when you -- of course, we didn't ask anybody if they had any information about this stuff. And I don't know who would have information about this stuff, but I'm just asking: Do you know what happens with the prisoners when they are in prison in terms of how they work or if they work?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Okay. All right. The parole laws. Because of

```
the fact that this allegedly occurred in '92, we have to
1
   go on '92 law. And at that time if somebody received a
2
   life sentence for the offense of capital murder, they
3
   have to serve 35 calendar years before they can be
4
   consider for parole. It doesn't mean they get out in 35
5
   years. And the charge that the Judge would give in
6
7
   relation to the parole laws would be that you are
   entitled to know what the law is, but you are not
8
   entitled to consider it in determining what the
10
   punishment ought to be.
                 In other words, the law is that a juror has
11
12
   a right to know what the parole laws are, but they can't
13
   consider it in deciding to give, say, a death sentence
   because they don't like the parole laws.
14
15
   particularly in a situation where life is involved,
   because there is no guarantee anyone ever gets parole on
16
   a life sentence. Did you know that?
17
18
            It's a possibility, right?
        Α.
19
            It's a possibility. There's no mandatory
        Q.
20
   parole for a life sentence, ever.
21
        Α.
            Right.
22
            And if you add 35 years, whoever it is that is
23
   on trial, would you concede they might not live that
24
   long in prison?
25
            Possibly.
        Α.
```

- Q. Do you see a life sentence as being a significant punishment?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. All right. Going back to guilt or innocence.

 And also in answering Question No. 1 and No. 2, I'll go
 back in a moment to the actual questions, but there is a
 proof beyond a reasonable doubt standard. And you knew
 that before you came here. You've heard that term,
 correct?
- A. Yes.
- Q. The law doesn't define what that is. The law has defined it before a couple of different times with a couple of different definitions, but there's not one now. We've had a definition, not a definition, we had a definition, not a definition. We've had various things in the law, but for some time now our state offers no definition to the jury. It's whatever the jury believes in their own heart and their own mind is proof beyond a reasonable doubt. What it takes for you to be convinced beyond a reasonable doubt. It can be different for every juror. On the guilt or innocence part of the case, a juror -- I'm not saying you -- a juror back in the jury room can say at the end of the day: I have heard all of the evidence in the case, I have listened to every word the State said, I've listen

to every word the defense said, I have listened to every
word the juror has said, and I'm not convinced the
person is guilty, I have a reasonable doubt, I'm a
reasonable person, I have reasonably applied everything
in this case, and I have a reasonable doubt, I'm not
going to convict. And that might be that person's
definition of what constitutes proof beyond a reasonable

Another juror might say in the jury room:

I have a reasonable doubt, I'm not going to convict, and

I don't feel like I have to tell you why. And they

don't. I mean, you would not have to tell other jurors

why you have a reasonable doubt. That would be your

right. I would encourage and always encourage the jury

to talk to each other and cooperate with each other and

respect each other. Because everybody on the jury has

exactly the same right, even the foreman. No one has

any more right than anybody else.

A. Uh-huh.

doubt.

Q. And I find that if a jury respects each other, it's more likely they'll get a verdict. I'm not saying that because it's helpful to me or the State. Just more likely going to get a verdict. But a juror doesn't have to tell what their reasonable doubt is. Another juror might say: Well, I have a reasonable doubt because I

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didn't believe a particular witness in a case. And that
   witness was testifying to something material, an element
   to the case, and I don't find anything that proves it, I
   don't believe that witness.
                 For example, hypothetically, the State may
   call a co-defendant to establish the identity of who
   committed the crime. Maybe that's the only way they can
   prove it. And the juror says: I don't believe them,
   they have too much to gain, I don't believe them, it's
   just too convenient for them to put it all on the person
   on trial and that causes me to have a reasonable doubt.
   That's my reasonable doubt. And the sky is the limit on
   the reasons it could be for somebody to have a
   reasonable doubt. If everybody on the jury has a
   reasonable doubt, then the verdict is supposed to be not
   guilty. Do you know that?
        Α.
            Uh-huh.
            And do you agree with that?
        Q.
            Yes.
        Α.
        Q.
            If that -- if you were in that group and had a
   reasonable doubt, could you vote not guilty?
22
        Α.
            If I had a reasonable doubt, yes.
23
            And can you imagine that happening?
        Q.
        Α.
            Sure.
        Q.
            I mean, if the State doesn't prove it to you,
```

3

25

```
no matter how hard they try, how nice they are, or how
1
   professional they are, if they just can't get to your
   standard, can you vote not guilty?
        Α.
            Yes.
 4
                   What if you are -- what if there is only
5
            Okay.
        Q.
   four voting not guilty and eight voting guilty, you've
6
7
   given all eight an opportunity to change your mind, but
   you are stuck on not guilty, would you hold your
8
   position?
            It would depend on the situation.
10
11
            Well, maybe they could change your mind, but
        0.
12
   what if they didn't change your mind, you still had a
   reasonable doubt?
13
            If we discussed it and my reasonable doubt was
14
15
   changed, I could possibly change the other way myself.
   You know, I could see it going either way, where they
16
   could sway me their way, I could sway them mine.
17
18
            Well, that's good. I like that you are
        0.
19
   reasonable. I like that. But my hypothetical is -- I'm
20
   affixing you. I'm saying that everybody has tried
21
   everything they could do to sway you either for guilty
22
   or for not guilty and you are stuck wherever you are.
23
   They are not able -- I mean, after 18 hours of
24
   deliberation, 46 hours, whatever the deliberation,
```

whatever it is, you are stuck on the fact that you have

```
a reasonable doubt.
1
2
             Then I stay stuck on reasonable doubt.
        Α.
             Okay. And even if you are the only one?
3
        Ο.
             Uh-huh.
 4
        Α.
             You think you are strong enough to do that?
5
        Q.
             If that was my feeling.
6
        Α.
7
            Okay.
        Q.
8
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Can we have -- well, that's
   all right.
9
             (By Mr. Cornelius) I'm going to go over the
10
11
   special issues with you for a moment.
12
        Α.
             Okay.
             That No. 1 -- Mr. Wood did a great job
13
        Q.
14
   questioning you about No. 1 and anticipating what my
15
   question is going to be. Of course, we do this over and
   over. It wasn't a surprise as to what I'm going to ask,
16
   put it that way. I just have to hear it for myself.
17
18
   And I really don't want to try to commit you to a
   Hollywood movie or a book that someone wrote. This is
19
20
   what I want to try to commit you to in my hypothetical.
21
                 I want you to assume that you are selected
22
   next year on a capital murder case. Don't want to talk
23
   about this case because I can't. And you hear the
24
   evidence in that case. Say, it's an alleged murder
```

during a kidnapping or a murder -- some other capital

```
murder, but maybe it's a murder during an alleged
1
2
   kidnapping or an alleged murder during an alleged
   killing {sic} and you hear all of the evidence in the
3
   case and you go back and deliberate and you and all
4
   eleven of the other jurors convict that person of
5
   capital murder.
6
7
                 So, are you with me? I mean, you are
8
   there, you've convicted of him of capital murder.
                                                        It's
   not a movie, it's not a book.
9
10
        Α.
             Okay.
11
             You have convicted that person. So, only then
        0.
12
   would you ever be asked Question No. 1.
13
        Α.
            Right.
            And it has to be proven beyond a reasonable
14
        Q.
15
   doubt, but could you -- as Mr. Wood asked you in that
16
   situation, if you're really there, could you imagine
17
   yourself ever voting "no" that there is not even the
18
   probability that the person would be a continuing
   threat?
19
20
        Α.
             It would depend on the facts of the case.
21
             Well, of course it would. But could you
        Q.
22
   imagine -- I mean, you know you and I don't know you.
```

And you know -- and it's hard for you to even know --

I'm going to concede this. It's hard for you to know

what you'd do when you are not there yet, not in the

23

24

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facts.
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- A. Right.
- O. But --
- A. It would depend on the facts of the case and whether or not -- with the background evidence and that, whether I felt that there was a continuing threat, as it's written.
- Q. I understand, but could you ever imagine yourself not finding he would be a continuing threat?
- A. I'm not sure how to answer that.
- Well, let me tell you where I am. 0. understand from my standpoint, if you don't mind. don't want to put somebody on the jury -- just to be honest. It's not personal against you, but who -- you know, originally you told Mr. Wood that you couldn't imagine finding it not true. And that's what you originally said to him. And then he gave you the idea of a Hollywood movie. And I'm not trying to commit one way or another, but I really want to know. really not possible -- I mean, some people say the greatest indication of what someone will do in the future is what they have done in the past. professionals say that. And that's -- our law doesn't a allow it to be that way, for you to automatically say there's at least the probablity that they will be a

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continuing threat, but you know yourself. And if you
have convicted someone of capital murder, are you going
to always say "yes" to Special Issue No. 1?
    Α.
         No.
    Ο.
         You are not?
             Because -- tell me why, why you wouldn't
automatically answer that "yes."
         Because I'm going to look at the evidence, and,
    Α.
you know, if it's a one-time thing, there might be
situations that it might have been a one-time thing, but
it falls under the realm of capital murder, that it
might be where we feel that life in prison was
sufficient.
    Q. Okay. I accept that.
             Now, I want to move to Special Issue No. 3
if Justin will put it back up there.
             THE COURT: Five minutes.
             MR. CORNELIUS: Pardon me?
             THE COURT: Five minutes.
             MR. CORNELIUS: Okay. I will be done.
    Q.
         (By Mr. Cornelius) Now, what I want to talk to
you about this, I think -- I know you understand the
question. I want to talk about sufficient, the word
"sufficient." When the Supreme Court mandated this
question, everybody has to have this -- every state, the
```

federal government, everyone has to have this question in a capital murder case before the death penalty could ever be inflicted. A jury has to look at the evidence, stop, take a deep breath, look at all of the evidence again, and decide if there is any reason to turn away from the death penalty. Because by the time you would be answering this question in a capital case, you would -- and the other jurors would have convicted, found "yes" that the person is going to be a continuing threat, found "yes" that either he caused the death or participated in the death. Okay? And now he is on his way to a death sentence except for this one question.

A. Correct.

Q. What I see the State doing in cases past and in this case is talking a lot about what would be sufficient. And they have a right to talk about that because that's what the question says. But I want you to understand or see if you agree with me that it's not mitigation that's sufficient to overcome the crime. I mean, nothing is ever going to overcome the crime or make it all right. It's what would be -- and, again, it's like reasonable doubt. It's not defined for you, what would be sufficient. It just gives you the opportunity to turn away from a death sentence.

Again, you wouldn't have to explain why or

```
you could explain why. Each juror could have a
1
2
   different reason. They could explain it or not explain
   it, but it gives the jury an opportunity to say: This
3
   is a horrible crime, he did it, he is on his way to a
4
   death sentence, but I find for some reason not to take
5
   his life. Could you do that?
6
7
        Α.
            Yes.
            I mean, if you got that far with it, could you
8
   say -- I'm not asking why you would or -- but could you
9
   say: I could vote to essentially -- by this you're
10
11
   voting to take his life or not, but I'm not.
12
            Uh-huh.
        Α.
13
        Q.
            Could you see yourself doing that?
14
        Α.
            Yes.
15
            Okay. Do you have any questions?
        Ο.
16
        Α.
            No.
17
        Ο.
            This is your last chance to ask me a question
18
   if you have one.
19
        Α.
            No.
20
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Okay. I'll pass the juror,
21
   Judge.
22
                 THE COURT: Okay. And if you would step
23
   out just a moment this side door. Deputy Perry is going
24
   to help you out there. We'll be calling you right back
25
   in in a few moments.
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1
                 (Venireperson exits courtroom).
2
                 THE COURT: As to Juror No. 64, Nancee
   Pyper, what says the State?
3
 4
                 MR. WOOD: The State accepts Juror No. 64,
5
   Ms. Pyper.
                 MR. CORNELIUS: We're going to accept her
6
7
   also, Judge.
8
                 THE COURT: Very good.
9
                  Bring Ms. Pyper back in, please.
10
                 (Venireperson enters courtroom)
11
                 THE COURT: Ms. Pyper, you have been
   selected as a juror in this case, the State of Texas vs.
12
   Obel Cruz-Garcia.
13
                 First off, I'm going to give you some
14
15
   admonishments. It's very similar to the ones we have
16
   given you before, but it goes like this. As a
   prospective juror, you must not read, watch, or listen
17
18
   to anything regarding this case. You are not to engage
   in any social media outlets, including Facebook,
19
20
   Twitter, etcetera, about your status as a juror in this
21
          If you encounter anything about this case,
22
   including but not limited to casual conversation,
   stories in the media, or exposure to any type of
23
24
   information or from any source, immediately end the
   encounter. You may only receive information from
25
```

```
official court proceedings. Do not discuss the case
1
   with anyone, including other prospective jurors.
2
                 It is just best if -- your employer, just
3
   tell them you are on jury duty and it will be this
4
   amount of time, but don't even talk about the case at
5
   all -- same with your husband, same with -- until it is
6
   over. Now, the trial will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m.
7
8
   on Monday July 8th, 2013. We talked about that date.
   It's not going to be in this courtroom. It will be in
10
   my courtroom on the 15th floor. As it says right here,
11
   same building. In fact, Deputy Perry is going to take
12
   you down there today after we excuse you and we get the
13
   other juror in here. He will give you a juror badge.
   You will want to wear that whenever you are in the
14
15
   building. It does a couple of things couple of things.
   It tells everybody around you that you are a juror and
16
17
   so they are more likely not to say stuff in front of you
   that they shouldn't.
18
19
                 As you've probably seen in this building,
20
   everybody rides the elevators. So, jurors are on there,
21
   prosecutors are on there. About the only people that
22
   aren't are judges and the judge's court staff. But you
23
   are in there with a lot of people. So, it tells people:
24
   Hey, I'm a juror, don't say stuff around me. It also
   helps you get through security a little faster. My
25
```

```
understanding is you can go to the front of the line if
1
2
   you have that badge on. So, that's great. So, wear it
   whenever you are here.
3
 4
                 And be here promptly at 10:00 a.m. on that
            There are two emergency numbers. Deputy
5
   Monday.
             That's his cell number. And then my court
   Perry's.
6
   coordinator. That will be ringing at the courtroom.
7
   So, you usually only work during the day, but that's
8
   available to you, too, if you need to leave us any
   instructions.
10
11
                 Do you have any questions?
12
                 VENIREPERSON: No.
13
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good. Good luck to
14
   you. We'll see you on the 8th.
15
                 (Venireperson exits courtroom)
16
                 THE COURT: We're ready for Juror No. 72,
   Keith Evans Bowers.
17
18
                 (Venireperson sworn)
19
              KEITH BOWERS, VENIREPERSON NO. 72,
20
   was called as a prospective juror, and testified as
21
   follows:
22
                     VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
23
   BY THE COURT:
24
        Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Bowers.
25
        A. Good afternoon.
```

- Q. Thank you for coming in early. We almost got to you early, but everything sped up. We should get you out of here earlier.
 - A. That's good.
 - Q. I need to make sure you are the same Keith Bowers, Juror No. 72, that was called over in venire of the State of Texas vs. Obel Cruz-Garcia?
 - A. I am.

Q. Very good.

And you heard my general voir dire on Monday, June 3rd. This is a continuation of that process. One of the attorneys from each side will have an opportunity to speak with you today. I'm going to hold them to 30 minutes each. They might be shorter than that. And they are going to ask you questions concerning the same topics that I already discussed, but it will be more towards your feelings, very personal to you. You are under oath to tell the truth, but there's really no right or wrong answer to this. It's just your general feelings about these laws and these concepts. Okay, sir?

- A. Yes, ma'am.
 - Q. If you have any questions about what they are trying to ask, just ask them to rephrase it because sometimes it's not clear.

```
1
                 Now, I have three questions I want to ask
2
   you.
3
             Who are the three people in the back?
             Well, the prosecutors and other lawyers in the
 4
        Q.
   courthouse. They frequently sit in to watch different
5
   trials to learn and to --
6
7
             They're authorized?
        Α.
             They are authorized. We have open courtrooms
8
        Ο.
9
   in the state of Texas. So, people can come and as they
   please as long as they are quiet.
10
11
                 All right. And this is the individual voir
12
          The questions that I have for you is, first off,
   dire.
13
   do you have any religious, personal, or moral reasons
   you would be unable to sit on a jury where the death
14
   penalty is a possible punishment?
15
16
        Α.
             I do not.
17
             And do you know of any reason why you could
18
   know be fair and impartial to both sides in a criminal
19
   case?
20
        Α.
            No.
21
             Have any of your questions from the
        Q.
22
   questionnaire that you filled out last Friday, May 31st,
23
   changed?
24
        Α.
             They have not.
25
```

Q.

Very good.

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We each have a copy of your questionnaire.
So, if at some point they start asking about it and you
need a copy, we'll provide that to you.
    Α.
         Thank you.
         And Ms. Tise is going to be talking to you.
    Q.
             THE COURT: I have 1:30, Ms. Tise. You may
proceed.
             MS. TISE:
                        Thank you, Judge.
                  VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
BY MS. TISE:
         Good afternoon, Mr. Bowers. Is that correct?
    0.
    Α.
         Correct.
    Q.
         Thank you for coming back down here. We really
appreciate your cooperation. I know you feel like you
really didn't have a choice in the matter, but we
appreciate that you are participating in the process.
And, you know, some people don't show up for jury duty.
         I feel it's a very important obligation that we
    Α.
have to our legal system.
    Q.
        You are absolutely right. And I wish more
people felt that way.
         It works only as long as people stay involved.
    Q.
         That's absolutely true. And we thank you for
being here.
             I wanted to ask you a few questions about
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your questionnaire. You say you are a managing director
1
2
   for B & B Suspension Technology Development?
             Yes, ma'am.
3
        Α.
             Can you tell me what that is, a little bit more
4
   about that?
5
6
             I started a small business about 15 years ago.
        Α.
7
             Okay.
        Q.
             And it's evolved to where we make the hydraulic
8
        Α.
9
   accumulators that are used on adjustable heights
   suspension cars.
10
11
        Ο.
             Okay.
12
             It's a very specialized business and we serve
   Lex LX-47, for instance. It's more exotic cars like the
13
   Porsche 959, etcetera.
14
15
             Okay. And what is a forensic -- what is
        Ο.
   forensic failure analysis mean?
16
17
             If we have a failure in one of our parts, we
        Α.
18
   want to know why.
19
        Q.
             Okay.
20
        Α.
             They aren't supposed to break, aren't supposed
21
   to fail. And it's my job to figure out what happened.
22
             Okay. And you have an engineering background,
        Ο.
23
   I see.
24
        Α.
            Yes, ma'am.
25
             Okay. Where did you go to school?
        Q.
```

- A. McNeese in Lake Charles.
- Q. Okay. Are you originally from Louisiana?
- 3 | A. I am.

- Q. Okay. What brought you here to Texas?
- A. Employment. I was transferred. I was working in Baton Rouge and then took a job with Bechtol here in Houston. And spent most of my career with Bechtol.

 Took about a five-year sabbatical with MW Kellogg.
- Q. Okay. One of the things that you put on your questionnaire and you kind of put yourself as in the middle with you're generally not opposed to capital punishment and that you will decide capital punishment based on the facts of the case, right?
 - A. Yes, ma'am.
- Q. But there were a couple of questions on the questionnaire that gave me a little bit of concern about where you actually stood on that. And you understand that the whole purpose of this process is just for us to get a determination of how everybody feels so that we can determine who the best twelve people are to sit in judgment on this case. So, I'm not here to quibble with your answers or try to get you to answer a question in a way that makes me happy or Mr. Cornelius happy. I'm just trying to figure out where you are so I can make the appropriate decision with my case.

- A. Yes, ma'am. I understand. You have a right to have a fair and impartial jury.
 - Q. And I appreciate that. I noticed that you said that you felt like capital punishment has never been effective in preventing crime. Can you elaborate on that a little bit for me?
 - A. Typically, the time that elapses between the event and the execution is decades and people who were around the event, they are not around or they don't remember. So, the people that are around at the execution event don't connect the two. So, it's -- it has been shown that it is not effective in deterrence.
- Q. So, how do you think your position on that
 particular question would affect you if were a juror in
 this case?
 - A. It wouldn't. I mean, the law is the law. We, the people, have rules. And if people choose to violate those rules, we have to sanction their behavior, otherwise other people -- you know, we deteriorate into a mob instead of a society.
 - Q. Fair enough.

- You also said that you felt like capital punishment was not necessary in modern civilization.

 Can you tell me what you meant when you said that?
- 25 A. There are people that -- I want to call them

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1
  predators in their psychological makeup. Man is a very
2
  violent creature by nature. And I'm not sure that
  eliminating those people from society does anything to
3
  the people that are growing up. It may be better for us
4
  to incarcerate them working for the State somehow to
5
  help pay for their sustenance and care and keep.
6
7
  not sure it works. You know, evidence says, well, it
  doesn't work, but, on the other hand, there are people
8
  that are not going to be rehabilitated. They are just
9
```

Q. So, what do we do with those people?

savages.

- 12 A. Either lock them up in solitary or you execute 13 them.
 - Q. Okay. You talked about a sentence of life in prison. This kind of goes hand-in-hand with what you were just saying, that a sentence of life in prison for someone convicted of capital murder is wasteful to society because we have to support that person in prison with taxpayer money. Tell me a little bit more about how you feel about that.
 - A. Well, I feel it's a fact. We don't do a good job of utilizing the labor and talents of that individual. We forget about them, throw them away, and then we take care of them. For some people, they consider that a pretty good life. They don't have to

- 1 worry about anything anymore.
- Q. Right.

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- A. For the rest of us, incarceration is horrible, 4 horrible to think of.
 - Q. Do you think your feeling on that would affect your decision in the case?
 - A. No, ma'am.
 - Q. Okay. You are not telling us that you would base a decision in this case on any economic factor?
 - A. No, no. It's based on the facts of the case.
- Q. Okay. You know, there is some -- there is
 another question here on Page 12 of the questionnaire
 where we asked you to circle some statements that you
 agree with. And one of the ones that you failed to
 circle was the question that says: I would find someone
 not guilty even if it was unpopular if I thought it was
 the right decision.
 - A. I wouldn't consider whether it was popular or unpopular in making my decision. Public opinion doesn't bother me.
- Q. But the question is: I would find someone not guilty even if it was unpopular if I thought it was the right decision. So, taking popular or unpopular out, would you find someone not guilty if it was the right decision?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. That's why I was confused by that
- 3 because it sounded like --
- 4 A. I understand. Unintentional oversight on my
- 5 part.
- 6 Q. You said that you have children?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And you are married?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. How many children do you have?
- 11 A. I have two by my first marriage and I have two
- 12 stepchildren by my second marriage.
- Q. Okay. And one of your children is a
- 14 psychiatrist or --
- 15 A. Yes. The oldest is a clinical psychologist,
- 16 | PhD, practicing in New York.
- 17 | O. Okay. It looked to me that both of the
- 18 | children worked for you.
- 19 A. They are legally employees, yes. They get paid
- 20 for their work.
- 21 Q. So, your oldest is your daughter and she works
- 22 | for you, but she's also a clinical psychologist?
- A. No, no. Our oldest is not my natural child.
- 24 It's a stepson.
- 25 Q. Oh, okay. And is that the one that's the

```
clinical psychologist?
1
             Yes, it is.
2
        Α.
             Okay. So, this is -- these are your kids that
3
        Ο.
   are your natural children?
4
5
        Α.
             Yes.
             Okay. And, you know, it's the elephant in the
6
7
   room and I hate to ask you this question and put you on
8
   the spot, but I understand that you have been convicted
   or you had a brush with the criminal justice.
10
            A deferred adjudication. Successfully
11
   completed, completely rehabilitated. I have a much
   better relationship with my daughter than most fathers.
12
13
        Q.
             Okay. And how long ago did that happen?
14
             Twenty-seven, twenty-eight years.
15
            And what exactly was the deferred adjudication
        Ο.
16
   for?
17
             It was for incest. I sexually molested my
        Α.
18
   daughter.
             Okay. How old was she at the time?
19
        Q.
20
        Α.
             Twelve.
21
             Okay. And you received deferred adjudication
        Q.
22
   here in Harris County for that?
23
        Α.
             I did.
24
        Q.
             Okay. And went through the process and --
25
             Yes.
        Α.
```

- Q. And your deferred is terminated?
- 2 A. That is correct.
- 3 Q. Okay. Have you ever had any other criminal --
- 4 A. No.
- Q. -- any brushes with the criminal justice
- 6 | system?

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- 7 A. No.
- Q. Okay. And I'm sorry to have to ask you that, but, you know, I'm not trying to put you on the spot.
- A. Ma'am, I have been through enough therapy. I wanted to change. I came out of the military during the Vietnam era and I was an emotional wreck, is a good word. It took me 25 years to get me back.
- Q. Okay. And I understand maybe that's how you know Ken and Judy Minkle (phonetic). They were your attorneys on the case?
- 17 A. Yes. I was also in therapy with them.
 - Q. Okay. So, here is my concern. And I'll probably -- you are a very intelligent person, I can tell, and very matter of fact. I don't have to tell you this. This is my concern. That your prior experience being on the other side of the table is something that you are not ever going to be able to separate yourself with and that you are going to carry your experience as being on the other side into this case with you. Tell

me how you would respond to that.

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- 2 It caused me to change to a much better person. I was extremely depressed, but hiding it very well. And 3 I was about to become a basket case from the emotional 4 I would have committed suicide shortly had I 5 not been incarcerated and forced into therapy. I was 6 7 already in therapy from my wife. Because it was an 8 emotional -- I couldn't feel, let's put it that way. Τо suppress the anger that I carried out of the Vietnam era, is what I had to do. I had to just turn off my 10 11 feelings. I was very good at it. It was a very 12 effective tool for our government to use. Ruined me. And so, I had to rebuild me. And I worked very hard at 13 it. And I don't blame the criminal justice system for 14 15 what happened. I caused what happened. I was the 16 perpetrator.
 - Q. And as a person who has been through the system and as a person who is and who finds yourself to be rehabilitated --
 - A. Oh, more than rehabilitated. Improved significantly.
 - Q. Okay. Okay. Fair enough. Here is what I'm thinking. I'm thinking that you might be a person who will go into this case with your mind set that anyone can't change and with your mind set that rehabilitation

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should be afforded to anyone no matter how heinous the crime because of your personal experiences. How do you feel about that?

I know personally it takes a tremendous effort to change. You have to want to change. It's the old horse and watering story. Some people cannot. very fortunate to come under the care of Dr. David Mindel, who is the founder of Family Therapy in the United States. He is long dead. I don't think people can change unless they are forced to change and want to change. And I don't think most people have the ability, the emotional maturity and strength. It's scary when you are changing you. You realize you are a wreck and you want to change to something better. terrifying process because you don't know what the outcome is. You have to give up who you are. Do I think most people can change? No. I think in our criminal justice system -- as a matter of fact, my stepson in New York has been in an incarceration intervention program where they evaluate people coming into the system and he decides -- tries to work out a therapy program for those who he believes can be dealt with outside of incarceration. But it has to be very selective. I cannot use it as an absolute and blanket.

Q. So, my thought and what we're trying to do is

- we're trying to find jurors who will follow the
 evidence.
 - A. Absolutely.

4

5

6

7

8

9

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11

12

13

- Q. And who won't base their opinions on their own personal experiences, but will look at the evidence in this case. So, are you telling me and can you commit to me that you are not going to automatically find that everybody deserves a second chance?
- A. Oh, no, ma'am. That's unreasonable. I'm a scientist by education and training and history. I'm a chemical engineer, a very successful project manager and senior executive for Bechtol. You make decisions based on facts, not wishes.
- Q. Okay. If you were in charge of Texas -- let's say you were king. So, you didn't even have a Legislature. You just got to make the laws. Would you have the death penalty as part of the punishment that was available?
 - A. If it were the will of the people.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. But if I was a dictator, I had absolute say --
- 22 O. It's all up to you.
- A. Well, I don't think we would have near as many
 capital cases because I would start and educate the
- 25 children early. I would help mothers mother. There

```
would be a different early childhood education. And grants for people who needed -- or diversions for people who need additional help, but would I have it as the ultimate? I think so. That's part of our country's tradition. You know, we've always had that. And you go
```

- 6 back and look in the very founding and it was used a lot
- 7 more often than it is today.
- Q. Okay. So, knowing that, where would you put yourself on a scale of one to ten; if one is a person who is opposed to the death penalty all the time in all cases, and ten is a person who is very much in favor of the death penalty, as strongly in favor as you can possibly be? And I'll take five off the table.
- 14 A. Well, give me a six.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- 16 A. A six is where I'd put myself.
- Q. How do other members of your family feel about the death penalty feel, do you know?
- 19 A. I don't know if I can answer that question 20 because I have not polled them on this.
- 21 Q. Okay. Fair enough.
- A. I know my wife has sat on a jury before. I'm not sure how that one went out.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. I really don't know. I think they would be

```
compassionate, but objective.
1
2
             Okay. And your wife is still with you?
        Q.
3
        Α.
             Oh, yes, yes.
 4
             So, she must be a very forgiving person.
        Q.
             Yes. She's a mother. Yes.
5
        Α.
             Do you feel that you are as forgiving?
6
        Ο.
7
        Α.
             No.
8
             Why not?
        Ο.
9
             I was trained to be able to make hard decisions
        Α.
   based on facts. I was trained throughout my education
10
11
   to make -- follow evidence, make decisions, and judgment
12
   on what did the facts say. It's the scientific
13
   principle.
        Q. You know, we're talking about this as if it's
14
15
   some -- you know, just a philosophy class. But I like
   to bring it back to reality because, you know, you could
16
   be on the jury --
17
18
        Α.
             Yes.
             -- that has to follow through and it is not
19
        Q.
20
   just a philosophical question anymore.
21
        Α.
             Yes, ma'am. I understand.
22
             So, knowing that, I'm going to ask you to take
        Ο.
23
   a look across the courtroom to this guy in the gold tie
24
   with the headset on. That's Obel Cruz-Garcia --
```

A. Uh-huh.

```
-- the defendant in this case charged with
1
        Ο.
   capital murder. Look at him and check your gut.
   Because what Mr. Wood and I want to know is that at the
3
   end of the day, if we've proved our case to you and show
4
   that the answers to those special issues are "yes,"
5
   "yes," and "no," the ones that the Judge talked to you
6
7
   about on Monday --
8
        Α.
            Yes.
            -- those answers are going to mean the death
        Q.
10
   sentence for that individual right over there.
11
        Α.
            Yes, ma'am.
12
            He's a living, breathing human being. He has
        Ο.
13
   family or may not. You may hear that he has family.
   You may hear that he has children or a mother or a wife
14
15
   who care about him and love him. You may hear all kinds
   of things about him. But at the end of the day, if you
16
17
   answer those questions based on the evidence and it
   leads you to say "yes," "yes," and "no," that man will
18
19
   be executed. How do you feel about that?
20
        Α.
            It doesn't bother me emotionally. You have to
21
   remember I served in the military in a time that was
22
   very awkward.
23
            And I want to take you back to that --
24
            And if the evidence -- I'm not going to cut you
25
   any slack. You have to prove it.
```

Q. I hear you.

- A. If there is air and cracks through the case, he goes through it. That's the way it is. If you prove your case, it's done.
 - Q. Right.
- A. It's not a personal decision. It's what the evidence says.
- Q. Right. And I intend to. But what I want to know is -- and you talked about your Vietnam experience and you talked about how it changed you and how it made you a different person and how it led to things that I'm sure you wish you could take back. I'm concerned about that. Because I'm going to, at the end of this case -- I'll make no bones about it. I'm going to ask you to answer those questions in such a way that it's going to lead to the death of Obel Cruz-Garcia. And are you going to relive what you went through before with your Vietnam experience and be tortured by that?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Why not? How is it different?
- A. I had no choice when I was in the service. You serve at the will and pleasure of your commanders. It's a 24-7, 365, 100 percent commitment that you do what you are told. This concept of illegal orders doesn't apply to people who were doing what they're ordered to do. On

```
1
   a three-star test, you go down the hall and to room so
   and so and then do what the two individuals do, ask you
2
   to do, or tell you to do, and he doesn't want to know
3
   what it is. You salute, say "yes, sir," and you go do
4
   it.
5
            Well, let me just draw some parallels here for
6
7
   you. Because you weren't forced to enlist, or were you?
8
   Were you --
            Oh, I had a draft notice. I was going into the
9
        Α.
   service one way or the other.
10
11
        Ο.
            You were drafted?
12
        A. Absolutely.
13
        Q.
            All right. And this is a particular case where
   once you take that oath of a juror, you are drafted.
14
15
   Okay? Once you take that oath. And if you find from
   the evidence that the answers to those questions are
16
   "yes," "yes," and "no," you have no choice.
17
18
            I'm merely an instrument of our system.
                                                      It's
   not my personal choice. It is the system I agree to
19
20
   live in and support.
21
        Q.
            Okay.
22
            And I believe very strongly in our system of
23
   laws and the way it's enforced. As a matter of fact, I
```

think we need to clean it up a bit, make it more

certain. People behave well under certainty.

24

Q. What do you mean by that?

1

- 2 Well, if they see something that happens, such as embezzlement or financial crimes, and it doesn't get 3 punishment swiftly and severely, they say: Hmm, that 4 doesn't seem very fair to me. And you will find those 5 people beginning to transgress on the rest of society in 6 7 other ways. Well, he gets away with it, why can't I. So, I believe that clarity and certainty is beneficial. 8 I don't mean being a hard ass. I mean, there's always room for compassion in our system, but you see people 10 11 run the red lights. I mean, I face death by going for his next hit of crack and he T-bones me. Boom, I knew I 12
 - Q. Yeah. Well --

was dead.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- A. But he didn't give a damn.
- Q. Back when we were doing voir dire, I remember you particularly -- there were a lot of people out there and sometimes people's individual faces don't stay with me when we come back to individual voir dire, but I do remember you because I remember you raised your hand a few times and made some comments on some of the areas of the law. Can you remember what your concerns were in voir dire?
- A. No, ma'am. I do not recall the exact incidents.

Q. I'm --

1

5

6

16

17

18

20

- 2 A. Perhaps you can help me.
- Q. I'm thinking that it had to do with the cold case, the fact that it was in 1992 case.
 - A. Yeah.
 - Q. And I believe you had some concerns about that.
- 7 A. I do.
- And I'd like to flush that out a little bit 8 Ο. more with you because, again, you know, you talked to me 9 10 about, you know, you have very strong feelings and you 11 have talked to me about the fact that you can do this. 12 And you are very convincing, so I -- you know, let's move on to something else and let's talk about some of 13 14 the things that might concern you if you make it on this 15 jury.
 - A. I'm concerned about -- and you will obviously answer the questions on the chain of custody.
 - Q. Uh-huh.
- 19 A. And believability of the evidence.
 - Q. Okay. What do you mean by that, chain of custody?
- A. Exactly what it says. Whose had their hands on it, what are the records that prove that that evidence was not -- first off, that it was good evidence at the time it was taken.

- 1 0. Uh-huh.
- 2 A. And that it has remained pure through this
- 3 20-something years.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. I mean, who did the work. What was their
- 6 credibility.
- 7 Q. Okay. And I understand those concerns.
- 8 A. It goes back to my training inbred in me and
- 9 let's get to the facts.
- 10 | O. Right.
- 11 A. Get to the facts.
- 12 Q. I understand those concerns and those are valid
- 13 | concerns.
- 14 A. That's the only concern I have, is the
- 15 | credibility of the State's evidence.
- 16 Q. Okay. Let's try not to talk over each other.
- 17 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 18 Q. And I'll try to let you finish and not
- 19 interrupt you. And if, you know, we can kind of do
- 20 | that, that will work.
- 21 A. Sorry.
- 22 Q. It's okay. It's something that you clearly
- 23 have very strong feelings about.
- 24 A. I do.
- Q. And that's your right. That's important stuff.

```
1
   I want to address that by saying that I do remember now
   you talking about the fact that since the charge was so
2
   serious that you were very concerned about the evidence
3
   and the quality of the evidence in the case. Now, it's
4
   very common for people to say: You know what, State,
5
   you know, you can come in here on a death penalty case
6
7
   and you better have -- you better be right. And I
   agree, we better be right. But some people will take it
8
   a step further and say: I'm going to require you to
10
   prove your case beyond a reasonable doubt, to the point
11
   of absolute certainty. Where do you stand on that?
12
        Α.
            Well, first off, I recognize there is no
13
   absolute certainty in this life. Beyond a reasonable
   doubt is, of course, a variable thing, but if there is a
14
15
   gap, a big gap, a credible gap it raises a question
   mark. And then you have to look at the totality of the
16
17
   evidence. Is this one area weak, unproven. You know,
   nine out of the ten areas are well proven and this one
18
19
   area unproven to some level of doubt.
20
        Q.
            Okay.
21
            Then it becomes the evaluation. Say, what's
22
   the -- I don't want to propensity -- the weight of the
23
   various terms.
24
                 THE COURT: You have five minutes,
25
   Ms. Tise.
```

```
1 MS. TISE: Thank you, Judge.
```

- Q. (By Ms. Tise) And I want to talk to you about two things on that. So, can you assure me that you are not going to raise my level of proof to something other than beyond a reasonable doubt just because it's a capital murder case?
- 7 A. Oh, no, ma'am. You have the same standard of 8 proof to me in any case.
 - Q. As I would in a traffic ticket?
 - A. Absolutely.
- 11 Q. Okay.

3

4

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13

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22

24

12 A. Show me the evidence.

prove beyond a reasonable doubt.

- Q. You were talking about what evidentiary evidence needs to be brought, what I would have to prove. And I'm going to show you what I have to prove. There is a list of the elements in the case. And you will be able to see them on the right on that small screen or you can look down on the big screen, whatever is more comfortable. Right there. Those are the elements of the capital murder case as I've alleged in the indictment, Justin and I. That's what I have to
- 23 A. Uh-huh.
 - Q. Now, the law says that's all I have to prove.
- 25 A. Yes.

- Are you comfortable with that? 1 Ο.
- 2 Yes, ma'am. Α.
- Do you see motive on there anywhere? 3 Q.
- 4 Α. No.

- Are you comfortable with the fact that I don't 5 Q.
- have to prove motive? 6
- 7 Yes, ma'am. Α.
- And can you go back in that jury room and if 8 Ο. you don't know why the crime happened, can you still convict if those other things are proven to you beyond a 10 reasonable doubt?
- 12 Α. Yes, if you can prove that he did it. I don't care why he did it, he did it. 13
- Okay. Fair enough. How do you feel about 14 Q. 15 police officer's testimony?
- 16 I class it as reliable generally. Always subject to verification. 17
- 18 Q. Okay.
- If it's in isolation of everything else, if it 19 20 doesn't fit, one has -- and if the officer has a record 21 of being untruthful or has been accused of being untruthful and unreliable, an unfit officer, if you 22 23 will, then you have to put a question around what he 24 says. They are human beings, they are poorly paid for what they do, yet we intrust them with use of lethal 25

```
1
   force.
2
             That's fair. And that's exactly what the law
        Q.
   requires you to do, to treat them like other witnesses,
3
   evaluate their testimony, and decide whether you
4
   believe it or not.
5
            Yes, ma'am.
6
        Α.
7
             I hear you saying you can do that.
        Q.
8
             Oh, yes.
        Α.
9
             Okay. You mentioned something in voir dire
        Q.
   about the defendant's age. You had some questions or
10
11
   concerns about that, I believe. Do you remember that?
12
        Α.
             My only concern there was he a teenager, a
   juvenile at the time of the alleged crime.
13
            And how would that affect your ability to sit
14
        0.
15
   on the jury as -- on a jury in this case?
16
             If you prove the case, I answer the questions,
   the verdict is. I think it's very sad for a juvenile,
17
   if he were a juvenile, to have led a life down that
18
   horrible path of taking another one's life, even if it
19
20
   were by accident or unintended, if you will. But yet,
21
   that certainly was part of the risk of perpetrating that
22
   crime.
23
             Do you understand the difference between direct
```

25 A. I do.

and circumstantial evidence?

- And how do you feel about circumstantial 1 Ο. 2 evidence?
 - It is circumstantial. Α.

4

6

7

8

10

11

- And how does that affect your duties as a Q. 5 juror?
 - Well, it has a lower rating in terms of veracity because it is circumstantial. There's more room for debate about whether it is or is not. While factual evidence is not debatable, not questionable, it While circumstance are circumstances and they -circumstantial evidence can be less reliable than direct evidence. I say can be.
- The law says that direct evidence and 13 Q. circumstantial evidence are to be treated the same and 14 15 that the State can prove its case purely through circumstantial evidence. How do you feel about that? 16
- 17 There has got to be good circumstantial Α. evidence to convict. 18
- Well, there has to be circumstantial evidence 19 20 that convinces you beyond a reasonable doubt.
- 21 Yes. Absolutely. That's the criteria, it has Α. 22 to convince me.
- 23 But if you are back there in the jury room, if 24 all you have is circumstantial evidence do you think you 25 could render a verdict of guilty?

```
It depends on the circumstances. I can't give
1
        Α.
2
   you a for-example answer.
            And I'm asking you to.
3
        Ο.
             It would not preclude me from finding the
4
   defendant guilty.
5
6
            And how do you feel about the burden of proof
7
   and presumption of innocence?
             Well, the burden of proof is clearly with the
8
        Α.
   State.
10
        Ο.
            Right.
11
             I'm a big believer in our -- that's the reason
12
   we had the revolutionary war. In England, you are
13
   guilty until you prove yourself innocent.
14
                 THE COURT: Ms. Tise, time is up. So,
15
   let's wrap it up.
16
             (By Ms. Tise) Okay. Can you afford the
   defendant his Constitutional rights, the presumption of
17
18
   innocence and the burden of proof being on us?
            Yes, ma'am, without question.
19
        Α.
20
                 MS. TISE: I pass the juror.
21
                 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Tise.
22
                 Mr. Madrid.
23
                 MR. MADRID: Thank you.
24
                     VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
25
   BY MR. MADRID:
```

- Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Bowers.
- 2 A. Yes.

- Q. How are you doing? My name is Mario Madrid.
- 4 | This is Skip Cornelius. We represent Obel Cruz-Garcia.
- 5 He is our client.
- 6 I'm going to ask you some questions. Not a
- 7 | lot. You filled out the questionnaire. And Ms. Tise
- 8 | has had the opportunity to talk to you. And I think I
- 9 pretty much have an understanding of where you sit, but
- 10 | there are still a few things I want to ask you. One is
- 11 | not -- maybe not as important as my other questions, but
- 12 just more out of curiosity. Some of the people you
- 13 listed that you admire and you put Elizabeth Warren. I
- 14 don't know who that was. I had to look that up. She's
- 15 a senator from Massachusetts. Am I right?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 | 0. I looked her up. It looks like she went to
- 18 school at U of H and her husband worked at -- I looked
- 19 | all this up because I didn't know who she was, but I was
- 20 | just wondering -- because I've never heard of -- why you
- 21 | picked her.
- 22 A. She has fought tooth and nail for the people
- 23 against the big banks.
- 24 Q. Okay. In the tarp thing. Okay. I read that.
- 25 | I was just wondering. It's not that important. I was

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```
wondering if there something specific because we're in
Texas and she's a senator in Massachusetts. But I did
read that about the tarp.
             Okay.
                    Well, you know -- and I think you
can tell by the questioning that the State, and anybody
in the State's position would have a concern.
if you were sitting over here, you would have a concern,
right?
         Right.
    Α.
         That's why Ms. Tise was asking these questions.
The first one is because you have been accused of a
crime, a serious crime. And people in your position
might feel like -- you didn't say this, but a lot of
people would feel they would maybe have a bias or
prejudice against the State because they were prosecuted
by the same district attorney's office. You said that
you don't have one and that -- that you needed to go
through this to be a better person, but I just want to
make sure. Do you have some kind of bias or prejudice
towards them, the State? Like, do you feel like you are
going to hold them to a higher standard --
    Α.
         No.
         -- because of your experience?
    Q.
    Α.
         No, not at all.
    Q.
         I mean, I heard you say -- I guess, the
```

```
1
   bottom-line is you have been in the military, right?
   heard two things from you. One, you were in the
2
   military; two, you're an engineer. And I guess in the
3
   military you have rules, right? And the scientific way
4
   of looking at things, you have to decide if these things
5
   add up to whatever result, right?
6
7
            Okay.
        Α.
            And that's how you would approach this process?
8
        Ο.
            Yes.
9
        Α.
            You would base it on the evidence?
10
        Ο.
11
                 And I think you had -- regarding the
12
   standard, you would -- you asked a question -- and I
13
   don't think it's something you would have to be
   concerned with if you were on this jury. The Supreme
14
15
   Court said that you couldn't have the death penalty for
   17-year-olds and under. Okay? And so, we wouldn't be
16
   here, the State wouldn't be trying a case if they
17
   couldn't try it, is the bottom line. Okay?
18
19
        Α.
            Yes.
20
            So, that was the one question you had sitting
        Q.
21
   out here, right? And I guess because you had looked at
22
   Mr. Obel Cruz-Garcia and you just wondered that. Right?
23
            Right.
        Α.
24
            Do you have any questions of me at all?
   Because I don't really have any further questions of
25
```

```
you. I think you would go through -- you would go
1
2
   through the elements just like you do at your job,
   right?
3
            Sir, the State has the burden of proof. You
        Α.
4
   don't have to say a word during the trial if you choose
5
   not to.
6
7
            And that is -- that's completely correct.
        Ο.
   That's what the law is. After you get past this, you
8
   are going to have to -- you are going to be asked a
   series of questions. One regarding mitigation, one
10
11
   regarding whether the defendant caused the death, or
12
   somebody else did and he anticipated it, all of these
13
   questions. And so, those are what would lead you to the
   death penalty. Could you do that?
14
15
        Α.
            Yes.
16
        Q.
            Okay. And you would always -- you would always
   judge the evidence, correct?
17
18
            That is correct.
        Α.
19
            Thank you.
        Q.
20
                 MR. MADRID: Pass the juror.
21
                 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Madrid.
22
                 Mr. Bowers, would you please step out?
23
   There is a door right over here. And the bailiff is
24
   going to assist you out there. We'll be right back with
25
   you.
```

```
1
                 (Venireperson exits courtroom)
2
                 THE COURT:
                             Juror No. 72, Keith Bowers,
3
   what says the State?
 4
                 MS. TISE: The State is going to exercise a
   peremptory strike on Mr. Bowers.
5
                             That will be granted.
6
                 THE COURT:
7
                 (Venireperson enters courtroom)
8
                 THE COURT: Mr. Bowers, you are excused as
   a juror in this case. We want to thank you for your
9
10
   time. Three days down here is a lot, you know, parking,
11
   getting here, all the time and attention. I want to let
12
   you know that we will be destroying the personal
13
   information that you provided to us. And thank you for
   doing that. We could not conduct these proceedings
14
15
   without interested and concerned citizens like you. So,
16
   we really want to thank you.
                 You were under a bunch of instructions from
17
18
   me, both in writing and orally. And you are released
19
   from all of those at this time. So, if you need
20
   anything from -- Deputy Perry has work excuses or Metro
21
   bus passes if you need them. But otherwise, you are
22
   excused. You're completely done.
23
                 VENIREPERSON: May I ask you a question?
24
   Did you ever know Judge Miron Love?
25
                 THE COURT: Not personally. He was a judge
```

```
1
  when I was a young prosecutor in this court.
                 VENIREPERSON: He married my wife and I in
2
3
   our home.
                 THE COURT: He was in the 177th District
4
5
   Court.
6
                 VENIREPERSON: Yes.
7
                 THE COURT: Yes, sir. Have a good day.
8
                  (Proceedings recessed)
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
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```
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
1
2
   THE STATE OF TEXAS
   COUNTY OF HARRIS
                        )
3
        I, Mary Ann Rodriguez, Official Court Reporter in
4
   and for the 337th District Court of Harris County, State
5
   of Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing
6
7
   contains a true and correct transcription of all
8
   portions of evidence and other proceedings requested in
   writing by counsel for the parties to be included in
10
   this volume of the Reporter's Record, in the
11
   above-styled and numbered cause, all of which occurred
12
   in open court or in chambers and were reported by me.
13
        I further certify that this Reporter's Record of
   the proceedings truly and correctly reflects the
14
15
   exhibits, if any, admitted by the respective parties.
        I further certify that the total cost for the
16
   preparation of this Reporter's Record is $ and
17
   was paid/will be paid by Harris County, Texas.
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19
        WITNESS MY OFFICIAL HAND this the 3rd day of
20
   September, 2013.
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   Mary Ann Rodriguez, Texas CSR 3047
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